

# THE RESERVOIR



SUMMER 2008

NORTH COAST COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

## CONSERVE WATER, IT'S A GOVERNOR'S ORDER!

On June 4, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed a statewide drought and issued an Executive Order, to take immediate action to address an urgent situation for many California communities being forced to mandate water conservation or rationing. The water shortage has created other problems such as increased fire hazards due to dry conditions, economic harm to urban and rural communities, reduced crop production and the potential to degrade water quality in some regions.

"For the areas in Northern California that supply most of our water, this March, April and May have been the driest ever in our recorded history," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "As a result, some local governments are rationing water, developments can't proceed and agricultural fields are sitting idle. We must recognize the severity of the crisis we face, so I am signing an Executive Order proclaiming a statewide drought and directing my Department of Water Resources and other entities to take immediate action to address the situation."

While we're not at the point of mandatory rationing, voluntary cut backs will benefit us all. Please take a minute to read about our water conservation programs and how our free tools can save you water and money. Do your part to conserve water and help us avoid mandatory rationing.



## A BEAUTIFUL DROUGHT TOLERANT GARDEN

You might be surprised to learn how beautiful native drought tolerant gardens can be. California's native plants evolved over a very long period to live with the local climate, soil types, and animals and once established they require *little or no supplemental irrigation*. Using drought tolerant natives in our California gardens conserves a scarce natural resource *and* saves money on water costs; it's a sensible choice! Visit the California Native Plant Society online at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) or stop by the District office for free pamphlets to help you get a better understanding. Here are some helpful tips for you to create your own garden: 1) Plant native plants such as the California Poppy, Douglas Iris and Zinnias. 2) Use an automatic shut-off hose nozzle to water your garden, don't have one? Stop by the District to get yours, free! 3) Instead of a lawn which requires an inch of water a week, consider using a native ground cover, driftwood and rocks to create a low maintenance garden.

## RATES DESIGNED WITH CONSERVATION IN MIND

All customers of the North Coast County Water District are encouraged to conserve water and, by doing so, customers will notice the difference in their bills. Our tiered rate schedule, also referred to as a conservation schedule, is designed to benefit those who use water more efficiently. The District uses CCF units (100 Cubic Feet) to measure water, each cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons. If a household uses between 0-6 units every two months, each of those units will cost \$2.24. For 7-20 units, the price increases to \$5.62 per unit. In the final tier, any usage after 21 units will cost \$6.77 each. Obviously, it pays to conserve! Here's a couple of ways to cut back and really save:

- 1) If a family of four takes 10 minute showers each day using a low-flow showerhead, which releases 2.5 gallons per minute, they can expect to use 3,000 gallons a month. But, if everyone cuts back to 5 minute showers, that's 1,500 gallons of water saved per month!
- 2) If a toilet is flushed 10 times a day using a pre-1994 toilet at 3.5 gallons per flush, that would equal 1,050 gallons a month. Now, replace the toilet with a low-flow model at 1.6 gallons per flush, that would save nearly 600 gallons a month! These two changes can save you 6 units every billing cycle. Imagine the savings!





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Mark your calendar!  
Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Stay informed and let your voice be heard.

Gardening Tips to Save Water

Trickle irrigation and drip irrigation systems help reduce water use and meet the needs of plants. With these methods, very small amounts of water are supplied to the base of the plants. Since the water is applied directly to the soil, rather than onto the plant, evaporation from leaf surfaces is reduced. The water is also placed where it will do the most good, rather than sprayed over the entire garden.



**FREE WATER SAVING TOOLS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS**

The following water conservation products are designed to save water in homes and on landscaping. To get your free devices, please visit our District office located at 2400 Francisco Boulevard while supplies last. Read each description below to find out if your home can benefit from them.



The new **Spoiler-P Shower-head** has an average flow rate of 2.0 GPM, exceeds national efficiency standards, and provides the same enjoyable shower found in regular showerheads.



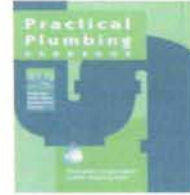
Your lawn needs about an inch of water a week. This **Sprinkler Gauge** will measure the water to ensure your lawn has been properly watered and to avoid overwatering.



The **Shower Coach** will help you keep track of time in the shower. Rotate each time you step into the shower to begin your five minutes.



Every garden can use an **automatic shut-off hose nozzle**. This particular model has seven settings and saves water that would normally run if unattended.



**Practical Plumbing Handbook** will assist you with conservation methods in the home. Learn to fix those simple leaks yourself.



This **kitchen aerator** has a lever that will pause your stream of water while doing dishes or washing pots and pans. This specific model also swivels.



**Leak Detection Tablets** are for detecting leaks in toilets. A leaking toilet will often be silent and go unnoticed. Most leaks in the home occur in toilets.



This **bathroom aerator** will run at 1.5 gallons per minute and has an easy to use shut-off and pause lever. Great to use when lathering hands or brushing teeth.

**GET YOUR WASHER & TOILET REBATES!**



The North Coast County Water District offers residential toilet rebates to aid homeowners in replacing old, water-guzzling toilets manufactured before 1994 with new, high efficiency or low flow toilets.

Homeowners can receive up to a \$50 rebate for the installation of a new ultra-low flow model toilet. Make sure to recycle your toilet at the Pacifica Recycling Yard to receive an additional \$10.

**IMPORTANT:** Only single family detached homes built prior to 1994 are eligible to receive rebates. The toilet being replaced must be flushing at 3.5 gallons per flush or more. You may not participate in this program if the toilets in your home are already ultra-low flow.

Washing machines can be expensive, but we can help soften the cost with a \$150 rebate to replace old washing machines with Energy Star-approved models. Visit our website for more information, or stop by the District office.