



on tap

A Community Newsletter from the Contra Costa Water District | Volume 23, Number 2, Summer 2009

Be a Successful Saver

15-Percent Drought Management Program Now in Effect

The Contra Costa Water District needs your help to reduce overall water consumption by 15 percent. Water conservation is necessary this summer because the spring rains were not enough to reverse the effects of the state's extended drought.

If you are a water customer in the District's Treated Water Service Area, you should have received a letter in April that included an explanation of the Drought Management Program, a water budget (which is your water use goal), and guidelines to help you avoid incurring excess use charges on your water bills. The Treated Water Service Area consists of Concord, Clayton, Clyde, Pacheco, Port Costa and portions of Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. If you did not receive your letter or you need more details about the Drought Management Program, call the Drought Help Line at (925) 688-8009 or visit the District's website (www.ccwater.com).

If you are a water customer in Antioch, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Oakley or part of Martinez, you receive tap water from either a city government or water district that purchases untreated water from the District. That puts you in the District's Untreated Water Service Area, and you also need to conserve. You can obtain information about the conservation program that affects you by contacting your water provider or by linking

to your water provider's website on the conservation page of the District's website.



NEW CAR WASH AND MULCH PROGRAMS

The District offers an array of free resources to help you succeed in your conservation efforts.

Two new programs available on the District's website encourage everyone to wash their cars at recycling car washes and spread a thick layer of mulch around their trees and shrubs to reduce their need to water their landscape.

Need More Information?

- Get Car Wash and Mulch Coupons
- Sign up for the E-newsletter and Tweets
- Learn Easy Ways to Conserve
- Link to Your Water Provider's Website

www.ccwater.com/conserv



To take advantage of the new programs, visit the District's website and click on the "Mulch, Mulch, Mulch" button or the "Smart Wash" button. You'll find a variety of coupons for discounts on mulch at local nurseries and garden supply stores and car cleaning services at local car washes.

GET TWEETS, FEEDS AND E-INFO

Staying informed about conservation methods and programs will go a long way toward making you a successful saver. You can keep up with the latest water conservation ideas and resources by signing up for the District's Conservation e-newsletter, Twitter tweets and water conservation blog with RSS feeds. You can access all of these electronic resources on the conservation page of the District's website.



REDUCE YOUR OUTDOOR WATER USE

Most households have a great deal of

flexibility in the amount of water they use to maintain their yards. As a result, this is an area where it is often easy to succeed at saving water. The amount of water used to irrigate lawns and other plants can usually be cut by as much as 50 percent with little damage.

During peak summer months, try watering your lawn no more than three times a week and don't worry if it looks a little stressed. Lawns are water guzzlers, but most can survive a dry spell and recover quickly in wetter times.

Another good strategy is to stop watering your lawn altogether, let it die, then replace it with a drought-tolerant landscape in the fall. Planting in the fall is a wise move because winter and spring rains will help the plants become established. You can find some excellent examples of drought-tolerant landscapes by visiting the "Lose the Lawn" feature at the Sunset magazine website, www.sunset.com/garden.

Drought Management: continued on back page

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goltman@ccwater.com

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CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT

1331 Concord Ave.
P.O. Box H2O
Concord, CA 94524
(925) 688-8000
<http://www.ccwater.com>

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) serves treated and untreated water to approximately 550,000 people in central and eastern Contra Costa County. CCWD provides treated water to Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Port Costa and parts of Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek.

In addition, CCWD sells wholesale treated water to the City of Antioch and the Golden State Water Company in Bay Point, and treats water at the Randall-Bold Water Treatment Plant in Oakley for distribution to the Diablo Water District and the City of Brentwood.

CCWD also sells untreated water to the cities of Antioch, Martinez and Pittsburg, as well as 22 industrial customers.

Soft drinks may be very refreshing on a hot summer day, but they can contain a lot of sugar, chemical ingredients and unnecessary calories. In addition, soft drinks that contain caffeine can act as diuretics, pulling fluids from your body. Tap water, on the other hand, provides the calorie-free hydration necessary for good health.

Perhaps you'd like to improve your health by reducing your consumption of soft drinks and saving them for occasional treats? Here are some interesting facts to help you make the switch from soft drinks to water.

- Eliminating one can of sugar-sweetened soda pop a day from your diet reduces your calorie intake by about 5,000 calories a month or 60,000 calories a year.



Make Water Your Favorite Summer Drink!

- Sugary soft drinks are bad for your teeth. Sugar feeds bacteria that erodes tooth enamel and causes cavities.
- Staying hydrated with water can help you lose weight. Even mild dehydration will slow down your metabolism as much as 3 percent.
- Studies have shown that, for some people, drinking plenty of water can help reduce the incidence of headaches, back pain and kidney stones.
- Drinking more tap water and fewer sodas can save you hundreds of dollars a year, depending on how many sodas you drank before making the switch.

A cold glass of water is even more appealing when you add ice cubes and sliced fruit. When served this way, it tastes great and looks special.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

continued from front page

SAVE WATER WITH FREE STUFF

Need a low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators or shower timer to make your conservation plan a success? Customers can get them free by visiting the District at 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord. The District also offers vouchers to cover the cost of some high-efficiency toilets, a rebate program for high-efficiency washer machines and on-site surveys. You can learn all about these services by visiting the District's website.

Report Water Waste

A Water Savings team has been established to investigate and eliminate water waste, such as runoff caused by overwatering, broken sprinkler heads and irrigation system leaks. To report water waste, call (925) 688-8044. A team member will answer the call, take a report and coordinate the response.

Save Water with a High-Efficiency Toilet



When you replace your pre-1992 water-guzzling toilet with a new, high-efficiency model, you will save water with every flush. It's one of the easiest ways to conserve water. The District is offering a voucher for an instant rebate worth as much as \$175 toward the purchase of an approved high-efficiency toilet.

Save Water While Washing Clothes

Today's high-efficiency clothes washers use 50 percent less water than older, conventional washers. They also save electricity and are gentler on clothes. Now is a great time to replace your old washer with a high-efficiency model because, for a limited time, the District has partnered with PG&E to offer rebates up to \$200.



These programs are available for homes, apartment complexes, commercial businesses, restaurants and others. To qualify, you must complete the application processes before shopping.

Need More Details? Visit www.cwater.com/conserv