

VOLUNTARY DROUGHT PROGRAM CCWD Calls for 15% Reduction in Water Use

California is in the midst of a serious water shortage from several significant dry years. Thus, Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is asking customers to voluntarily reduce their historical water use by 15%. Most customers should be able to achieve this goal by reviewing and reducing their outdoor water needs.

As the normal watering season begins, conservation is important to protect our water supplies and save water in Los Vaqueros in case drought conditions continue into next year. Actions like reducing your automatic sprinklers by one watering day could save up to 400 gallons per week.

Does this voluntary drought program apply to me?

This program applies if you receive a water bill from CCWD, or are a water customer in the cities of Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Port Costa, or certain portions of Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. If you are a water customer in Antioch, Bay Point, Brentwood, Pittsburg, Oakley or the portion of Martinez served by the city, you should contact your water provider for details.



Adjusting your sprinkler timer or reducing your water schedule by one day could save a significant amount of water.

Report Water Waste

CCWD is committed to preventing water waste and follows up on all reports. Certain wasteful actions using CCWD water are always discouraged and should be reported, even in wet years. Some specific prohibitions approved as part of this program include:

- Landscape watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Washing down pavement instead of sweeping
- Refilling a non-recirculating fountain or pond
- Washing vehicles using a hose without a shutoff nozzle.

Please report these incidents, including water leaks, to CCWD at 925-688-8059.

What is a voluntary drought program?

A voluntary program means there are no penalties if you do not meet your target of an overall 15% reduction in your historical water use. However, given our limited water supplies and the uncertainty about how long this drought will last, customers are strongly encouraged to meet this goal. Customers who meet the voluntary conservation goals will save money due to reduced usage.

What is my historical water use?

Historical use for your property can be found on the back of your water bill. Historical use is an average of 2005–2007 water use at your residence. Recent conservation efforts are appreciated and *are not* counted against customers. Customers with changed conditions at their household, such as additional people living at their house, may contact CCWD at 925-688-8044 to request an exceptions form.

How can I meet the voluntary 15% reduction goal?

The largest use of water for most customers is outdoor water use. CCWD recommends focusing your conservation efforts on outdoor water use while maintaining your conservation-minded indoor water use. Replace your lawn with a water-efficient garden for significant savings. Currently, CCWD is offering homeowners rebates of up to \$1,000 to replace their water-thirsty lawns. Upgrading old appliances, such as washers and toilets, to water-efficient models will help you save water. Visit www.ccwater.com/conserves to find rebates for water-wise appliances and other water conservation tips.

A great way to track your water use is to learn how to read your water meter. CCWD reads your water meter every other month to determine your water use and your water bill. You can use the meter to monitor your own water use and watch for water leaks. CCWD has a simple worksheet available at www.ccwater.com.

Will there be enough water for emergency services?

Yes. CCWD is working closely with local fire agencies and other emergency services providers to ensure an adequate supply of water is readily available.

Help Stop Illegal Hydrant Use

Look down most streets in your neighborhood and you are likely to see a fire hydrant. There are about 5,000 hydrants throughout Contra Costa Water District's treated water service area alone. Though these devices are usually reserved for emergency services, special meters are occasionally issued for other uses on a temporary basis.

On occasion, hydrants are accessed without authorization or the special meter. This illegal and dangerous act may cause a main break, decrease water pressure or contaminate your water supply. Illegal hydrant use may also damage the hydrant, putting your home or business at risk during an emergency.

The illegal use of a hydrant is theft and the burden of paying for the stolen water falls on paying customers. Please report illegal use immediately to CCWD 24 hours per day at 925-688-8397. You can tell if a person is authorized to use a hydrant by the connection they use. Authorized users will have a large, bright orange meter as seen in the picture.

ILLEGAL USE ►



LEGAL USE ▼



CCWD Board of Directors:
Joseph L. Campbell, *President*
Karl L. Wandry, *Vice President*
Bette Boatman
John A. Burgh
Lisa M. Borba

General Manager:
Jerry Brown

Writer/Editor:
Oliver Symonds



Don't Miss a Drop!

Want to find out about local water issues and upcoming events? Like **Contra Costa Water District** on Facebook and follow **@CCWD** on Twitter.

Rebates for New Toilets

Old toilets waste water and money. If your home was built before 1994 and you have never received a rebate for a water-efficient toilet, you may be eligible to receive up to \$125 toward the purchase of a water-efficient model. Modern toilets, known as high-efficiency toilets or HETs, use 1.28 gallons per flush or less and are marked with the EPA WaterSense label. Contact CCWD at **925-688-8320** to check eligibility and request an application.

In This Issue:
VOLUNTARY DROUGHT PROGRAM
Help Stop Illegal Hydrant Use
Stay Safe: Stay Out of the Canal
Rebate for New Toilets

On Tap

Spring 2014



Trail users should never enter the dangerous waters of the Contra Costa Canal.

Stay Safe: Stay Out of the Canal

Warm, sunny weather is drawing more people to the trails near the Contra Costa Canal. While the trails are great for jogging, riding a bike or walking a dog, the nearby water canal presents many dangers.

The Contra Costa Water District is reminding customers and all those using trails along the Contra Costa Canal to respect the fencing and safety signs posted and stay out of the canal. Parents are reminded as well to make sure children understand that for their safety, they must stay out of the canal. The current in the canal is strong, and its sides are steep and slippery. In emergencies, always call 911 for assistance.

The 48-mile canal is the primary way CCWD moves water west from its Delta intakes to customers in East and Central County.

Stay safe by following these warnings posted along the canal:

- **No Swimming.** The water in the canal may look slow, but it is really moving fast. The swift current could pull you down and you could drown.
- **No Climbing.** The fence is there to protect you. Don't ever try to rescue people or pets from the canal. Instead, get to a phone and call 911 in an emergency.
- **No Fishing.** Fishing in the canal is strictly prohibited for safety reasons. It is dangerous and you could be ticketed by Canal Patrol for doing it.

The Contra Costa Water District employs a Canal Patrol to remind trail users of safety practices and to respond to emergencies. Help us keep the canal a safe place for people to enjoy. If you see anyone breaking safety rules, or if you notice an opening in the fence, call the CCWD Canal Patrol at **925-688-8356**.

Olympian Urges Canal Safety

In a new safety video, 12-time Olympic medalist Natalie Coughlin tells viewers that even she wouldn't dare swim in the Contra Costa Canal. Natalie, who has local roots, speaks with a CCWD Canal Patrol Safety Officer about the risks of entering the canal. The video also features local residents and CCWD employees.



To view the video, which is about eight minutes, visit www.ccwater.com. Local schools may request a copy of this video on DVD by contacting goltman@ccwater.com.