

Your Investments Paying Off for You

You know the importance of clean water. It's an essential part of your everyday life; you use it to wash your clothes and dishes, keep your yard healthy, bathe, stay hydrated and much more. You rely on clean water to be available when you need it.

The Contra Costa Water District understands this. Over the past few decades, we have made huge investments to meet the challenge of making clean water readily available. These investments aren't just for today. Our long-term planning ensures our water supply and quality are in tune with local demand. The calculations we use in long-term planning include climate change and a rising sea level to ensure our customers have access to a reliable supply of water well into the future.

The fruits of this labor were more evident than ever this fall. After a lengthy period of little to no rain, water supplies throughout the state were understandably low. Less fresh water flowed from the Sierras and into the Delta. Yet the District delivered on its promise of supplying high-quality water to its customers.

These investments will provide long-term value to our customers for today and future generations.



Middle River Intake and Pump Station

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The primary source of water you get is, and always has been, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The fully screened Middle River Intake is the District's newest and most easterly intake in the Delta. Its favorable location allows us to draw high-quality water at times of the year when salinity is too high and fish may be present at the other three intakes. Access to fresher water at Middle River in 2013 allowed the District to store additional high-quality water in its Los Vaqueros Reservoir. This is exactly what the facility was designed to do in what has been a dry year for our region.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir

The recently expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir has the ability to hold 60 percent more water than its original capacity. In September, the reservoir hit 132,000 acre feet—its highest level yet. The extra storage capacity ensures customers receive a reliable supply of high-quality water even during dry years. There is enough water to use, but not enough to waste.

Contra Costa Canal Replacement

Construction to replace a section of the unlined portion of the Contra Costa Canal in Oakley is set to begin this spring. Replacing the 6,000 feet of earthen levees with a 10-foot diameter pipe will protect public safety by preventing levee failure and flooding. The project also provides significant water quality improvements. The enclosed pipeline will keep nearby groundwater from seeping into our water supply. In 2010, the District replaced the first 1,900-foot section of the unlined canal. The remaining 13,000 feet of unlined canal will be replaced in three more segments as adjacent development occurs.

Ways to Use Water Wisely

Saving water isn't only for the summer. Conserving in the winter—even when water seems plentiful—is just as important. What we save today will benefit us later in the year when water is scarcer.

Here are some simple things you can do inside the home to avoid wasting water.

Home Water Use Efficiency Service

Contra Costa Water District offers free home water use evaluations to help customers reduce their water use, while still maintaining beautiful landscapes. During the evaluation a water conservation specialist will:

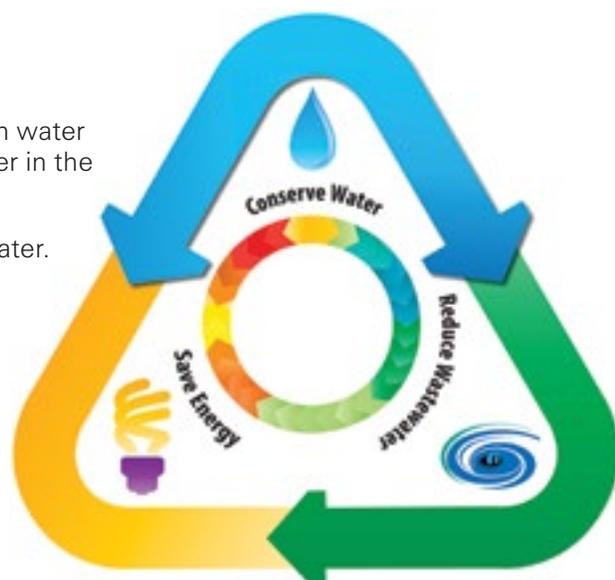
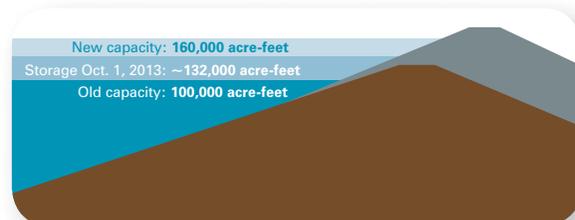
- Evaluate your irrigation system and provide you with a site-specific watering schedule
- Explain how to read your meter so you can monitor your water use
- Inspect your toilet for leaks
- Provide tips and tools to help you avoid high water bills

To request a free home water use evaluation, call the District's Conservation Office at 925-688-8320.

Maintaining and Upgrading Our System

The distribution system of the Contra Costa Water District is made up of nearly 900 miles of pipeline, most of which is underground. It's enough pipe to stretch from our headquarters in Concord all the way to San Diego and back again. Timely replacement and reinvestment in these pipes is essential for a reliable water system.

To address this need, we routinely replace our oldest and most fragile pipes, some of which date back more than 75 years. Replacing and upgrading the system now avoids disruptive main breaks. The reinvestment of your rate dollars ensures future generations won't be paying for your use of the system.



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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.

Tour Your Water District

Ever wonder what is involved in making water safe to drink? The Contra Costa Water District is hosting two Public Outreach Tours this May. You'll have a chance to go behind the scenes at a water treatment plant, visit one of our Delta intakes and explore the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Call **925-688-8175** for more information and to reserve your spot.

In This Issue:
Your Investments Paying Off for You
Maintaining and Upgrading Our System
Ways to Use Water Wisely
Tour Your Water District

Winter 2013/2014

On Tap



Conserving Water CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Conserve with a Clothes Washer

By replacing your older top-loading clothes washer with a new high-efficiency model, you can save a significant amount of water and also energy. High-efficiency washers use 50 percent less water and energy than conventional washers, and they are kinder to your clothes. Contra Costa Water District and other Bay Area Water agencies are working with PG&E to offer high-efficiency clothes washer rebates. For more rebate information, visit your local home appliance retailer or www.waterenergysavings.com.



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Save with a Showerhead

Replace your old high-volume showerheads with new high-efficiency showerheads that use 2.0 gallons per minute or less. This can save more than 40 gallons per day. Contra Costa Water District has FREE showerheads for our customers in central and east Contra Costa County. To get a free showerhead, just drop by the District office at 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord.

Upgrade Your Toilet

Old toilets literally flush excess water and money down the drain. CCWD provides rebates of up to \$125 when qualifying customers replace pre-1994 toilets with high-efficiency models. Contact CCWD at **925-688-8320** to request an application.

Save Water at the Tap

Sometimes when people want to get a glass of water, they turn on the faucet and let it run to make sure the water is nice and cold. Here is a tip: Keep a container of water in the fridge for drinking. This will eliminate the need to run the water each time.

Read My Meter, No More leaks

Suspect you have a leak in your irrigation system or in your home? Monitor your water use by learning to read your water meter. CCWD reads your water meter every other month to determine your water use and 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 or by contacting CCWD's Conservation staff at **925-688-8320**.

Did You Know?

Turning off the water while you brush your teeth or shave **saves 2½ gallons per minute.**

Taking shorter showers **saves 2 to 6 gallons per minute.**

Turning off the water when you rinse dishes **saves 2½ gallons per minute.**

Running the dishwasher only when its full **saves 4 to 6 gallons per load.**

Washing only full loads of laundry **saves 10 to 40 gallons per load.**

Going to a car wash that recycles water **saves 20 to 30 gallons.**