

## Recycled Water Boosts Region's Water Supply

It's a sight that's becoming more familiar with each hot, dry day: A truck hauling water that will keep lawns, shrubs and trees green amid California's historic water shortage.

With the state's mandatory water restrictions pushing many gardens to the brink, free recycled wastewater has emerged as an alternative that homeowners and businesses are using to keep their green lawns.



When applied on a city-wide scale, recycled water—sometimes referred to as reclaimed water—is kept separate from drinking water. Delivered through a system of purple pipes, it is used by industry, golf courses, parks, median strips and agricultural lands. The Contra Costa Water District believes recycled water projects are an essential water management strategy to sustainably secure the state's

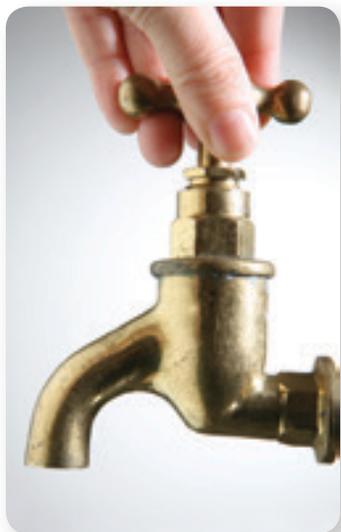
water future. Approximately 10% of the water demand in our service area is met with recycled water delivered by the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Delta Diablo, Ironhouse Sanitary District and Brentwood Public Works. That means every year roughly 6,000 gallons per person in our service area is recycled and reused for industry use and irrigation. This allows more of our fresh-water supply to be available for drinking water.

The value of the region's strong commitment to recycled water is especially apparent in dry years. Investments made in recycled water reduced the demand on our drinking water system by billions of gallons last year alone. Without available recycled water, this additional demand would have placed considerable pressure on regional water supplies already strained by drought. Moreover, water supplied through recycling reduces demand on the Delta, from which the region's primary water supply originates.

However, recycled water can be expensive compared to conventional treatment. In order to successfully implement a recycled water project, we need to factor the cost to build and operate a specialized treatment facility, the considerable amount of energy that would be consumed and the miles of purple pipe that would have to be installed. Occasionally, grants are available to lessen the cost for local agencies, and we have been successfully partnering with local wastewater agencies to obtain that help. Together, we've helped bring more than \$12 million to the region.

Today, there are numerous recycled water projects active within our service area and others that are in the planning stages. Planned projects support businesses and new developments, like the Concord Community Reuse Project that will develop 5,000 acres at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station. Recycled water keeps industry in business, irrigation needs met, ball parks and golf courses green, and provides a host of other benefits. A well-balanced water supply—one that includes recycled water, water conservation, water transfers and desalination—helps save water, money and the environment.

As a steward of the environment and a water provider dedicated to meeting the needs of its customers well into the future, we are committed to incorporating recycled water into the overall water supply in the most cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner possible.



## Drought Update Thank You for Conserving!

From Oakley to Port Costa and from Martinez to Walnut Creek, water users in central and eastern Contra Costa County have slashed water consumption this summer in response to the historic drought. As your water provider, we applaud these efforts and encourage you to continue conserving through the fall and winter months. With uncertainty about the upcoming winter, the water you saved was kept in Los Vaqueros Reservoir to provide further drought relief, if necessary. While you put up commendable numbers—customers in the Contra Costa Water District treated water service area, for example, reduced their water use in June, July and August by 40% compared to 2013—it's important to remember this level of savings will be more difficult to achieve in the winter months. So keep those buckets in the shower, continue to wash full loads of laundry and when you need a little extra help, visit us online at [www.ccwater.com/conserve](http://www.ccwater.com/conserve).

**Remember:** CCWD's drought program, including the prohibitions, fines and temporary pricing adjustment, stay in effect until the state emergency is lifted.

### Get Your Fill

Recycled water is available at multiple locations throughout our service area. **This water should be used for irrigation only.**

#### Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

[www.centalsan.org](http://www.centalsan.org)  
1-800-646-1431

Eligible communities include Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and Central County unincorporated areas.

#### Delta Diablo

[www.ddsd.org](http://www.ddsd.org)  
925-756-1900

Eligible communities include residents from Antioch, Bay Point and Pittsburg.

#### Ironhouse Sanitary District

[www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com](http://www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com)  
925-625-2279

Eligible communities include residents from Oakley and Bethel Island.

#### Brentwood Public Works

[www.brentwoodca.gov](http://www.brentwoodca.gov)  
925-516-6060

Eligible communities include residents from Brentwood.

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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.

## We've Improved Our Website

To better serve our customers, who increasingly rely on the Internet to complete day-to-day tasks, we've created a fresh, new look for the Contra Costa Water District website, **www.ccwater.com**. The modern design will make it easier for customers to navigate our website—on any device—and find the information they need to make wise water use decisions. Please visit the improved website at and let us know what you think.

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Fall 2015  
**On Tap**

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Concord, CA 94520



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## Lawn to Garden Rebates Growing Success

### Customers Get Paid to Remove Water-Thirsty Turf



Amid severe drought and state-mandated water cutbacks, home and business owners throughout California are realizing the benefits of replacing water-thirsty lawns with water-efficient gardens. In addition to saving water and money, many homeowners are receiving rebates of up to \$1,000 to make the switch.

From September 2014 through August 2015, 478 lawns—totaling more than 460,000 square feet—were converted to gardens under the District's Lawn to Garden rebate program. The annual water savings from these newly drought-resistant yards will help us ensure a reliable water supply for generations to come.

**Save water and money.** Homeowners can reduce outdoor water use by more than half by simply converting their lawn to a drought-tolerant garden. For a typical 900-square-foot yard, the savings add up to 25,000 gallons of water per year. Saving water means saving money on your water bill, which is always a good thing.

**Improve aesthetics and save time.** Drought-tolerant front yards are beautiful, eye-catching gardens full of color that attract birds and wildlife. And now you can say goodbye to weekly walks with the lawnmower! Depending on the design and plant selection, a water-efficient garden can be very low maintenance.

**Rebates available.** The Lawn to Garden Rebate Program provides rebates to qualified customers to replace their existing water-thirsty front lawns with water-wise landscaping. The rebate is \$1 per square foot with a maximum of \$1,000 per single family residence and up to \$20,000 for commercial, homeowner associations, industrial and institutional properties. The program is not retroactive and projects must be pre-approved by District staff. Plus, participants are eligible for rebates in design assistance.

Complete program details can be obtained by visiting [www.ccwater.com/conserve](http://www.ccwater.com/conserve) or by calling 925-688-8320.

### Limited Time

The State of California is offering a dollar-for-dollar match to homeowners who replace their lawns with drought-resistant gardens. That means Contra Costa Water District customers can receive up to \$2 per square foot—up to a maximum \$2,000—when combining local and state rebates. For the state rebate program information and eligibility, visit [www.saveourwaterrebates.com](http://www.saveourwaterrebates.com) or call us at 925-688-8320.