



The Water Drop

Elk Grove Water District



November 1, 2014

The Drought Continues!

Message from the General Manager

The 2014 calendar year continues to be one of the most challenging years in California's history. Regionally, and Statewide, the drought is causing far reaching effects never before experienced. Thanks to you and other water users in the Sacramento area, our region leads the State in water conservation, averaging around a 19% drop from this time last year. We appreciate your efforts – it helps a lot.

This year has also been historic from a legislative and water management standpoint. Proposition 1 will be decided by the voters on November 4 and, if approved, will approve \$7.12 billion in bonds for statewide water infrastructure projects. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan, albeit delayed slightly until early 2015, is still advancing and potentially will serve as the environmental basis for the controversial tunnels project, an earlier iteration of which was formerly referred to in the 1980's as the Peripheral Canal.

Lastly, and perhaps most significant, this year included three groundwater legislative bills which were signed into law by the Governor on September 16, 2014. Assembly bill 1739 (Dickenson), Senate bill SB 1168 (Pavley), and Senate bill 1319 (Pavley) are likely to become the most important water management laws since 1914.

These bills ultimately serve to regulate groundwater throughout the State where groundwater, aside from a number of basins in Southern California, has forever been unregulated. These regulations require "Local Agencies" to develop groundwater sustainability plans by 2020 or 2022, and then to achieve groundwater sustainability within 20 years from the adoption of those plans. We do not yet know who the "Local Agency" will be in this area, but that agency must be identified by January 1, 2017.

At every regular Board meeting (which is usually on the fourth Wednesday of every month), we provide a report on current legislation and this would be an excellent way to obtain additional information. Once again, you are more than welcome to attend.

-Mark

Attend a meeting! Our next board meeting will be November 19th, 6:30 pm at 9257 Elk Grove Blvd.

A Big Thank You to our Customers!

EGWD would like to thank all of you for your amazing water conservation efforts. According to our calculations, EGWD customers have reduced their water usage by 16.4% in the months from January through September. The entire Sacramento Region's water consumption has dropped an average of 19%!

Let's take a look at the long term significance of your conservation. In 2008, then-Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a plan to reduce California's water consumption by 20% by 2020, passed into law as SB X7-7. EGWD's

2010 Urban Water Management Plan calculated an average use of 253 gallons of water per person daily. Therefore, by 2020, EGWD customers are required to reduce their use to 202 gallons per person per day. Right now, EGWD calculates customer usage at about 210 gallons per person per day.

We are doing a great job, but state law requires that we continue to do more and make water conservation a permanent habit. Each of us must trim our daily use by eight more gallons before we can count ourselves as being in compliance.

Californians Cut Back on Water Use by 11% in August

(Portions of an article originally published by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), Volume 42, No. 10, October 17, 2014. Article used by permission.)

Californians embraced water conservation in a big way in August – the state's hottest month – cutting usage by 11.5% across-the-board over last year's figures, with some areas seeing even larger reductions.

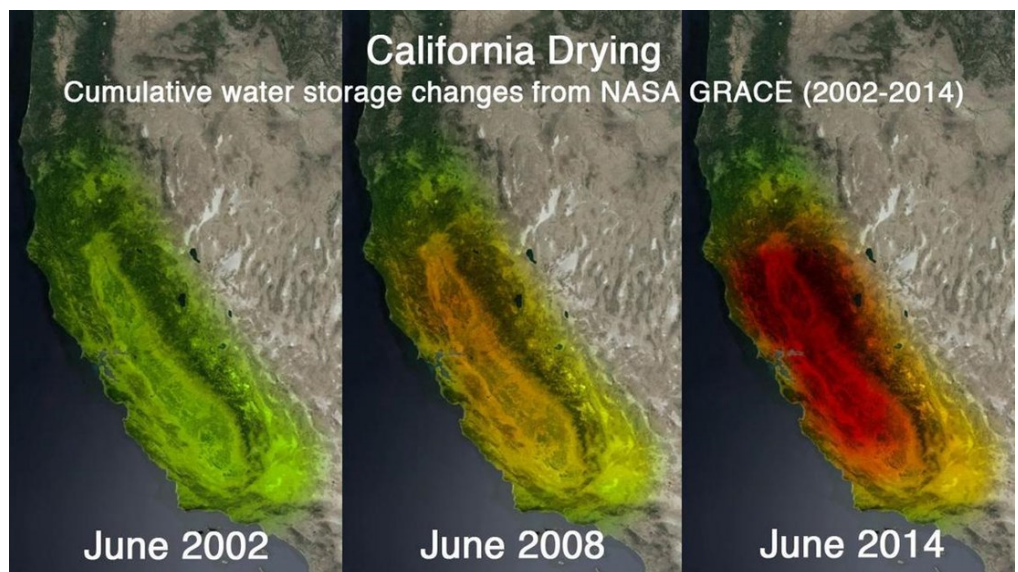
The water usage data – presented October 7 to the State Water Resources Control Board – was welcome news to state officials, indicating that Californians have heard the conservation message loud and clear and are answering the call. The drop in usage also indicated that the water conservation campaigns launched by local water agencies as well as the Save Our Water program – which is co-managed by ACWA and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) – are working in their efforts to encourage people to conserve.

Overall, Californians saved 27 billion gallons of water in August. By comparison, residents collectively saved 18 billion gallons in July of this year and 9 billion gallons in June. These drops are in comparison with 2013 figures for the same month.

Emergency water conservation regulations adopted by the State Board in July required mandatory reporting of water usage by urban water suppliers. The State Board also banned certain forms of outdoor water use statewide and water agencies are among the agencies enforcing the ban.

As of October 15, water suppliers also are required to provide an estimate of gallons per capita per-day for residential customers.

Dave Bolland, senior regulatory advocate for ACWA, said that water agencies are engaged in "both a sprint and a marathon" when it comes to conservation messaging because there is a sense of immediacy, but also a need to stay the course for the long haul.



NASA's GRACE program (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment), which measures sensitivities in the Earth's gravity field, estimates that since 2011, 4 TRILLION gallons of water have been removed from the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins.

New Resources for Your Landscape!

The Be Water Smart Web site, produced by the Regional Water Authority has been updated with some new information for homeowners, <http://bewatersmart.info/>. Included are the videos:

- Renovate Your Landscape for Water Efficiency
- What to do if You Must Reduce Water Landscape Use
- How Much Water does Your Garden Really Need to Thrive?

Another new Web site of interest is produced by Ecolandscape, a local non-profit, and is filled with wonderful ideas for anyone interested in a landscape remodel: <http://www.ecolandscape.org/new-ca/>.

The site features not only landscapes designed for local conditions, but also videos by local designers and irrigation experts.

Frequently Asked Questions AND Answers!

Where is most water used at home—inside or outside?

Most Californians think they use more water indoors than outdoors. But, actually, the opposite is true. In the Sacramento region, 65 percent of the water we use daily goes on lawns and outdoor landscaping, and about 30 percent of that is lost due to overwatering and evaporation. There are lots of ways to save water at home, but reducing water use outdoors can make the biggest difference of all.

What are the best ways to save water?

Here are our top tips for saving water:

Indoor Tips:

- Limit showers to five minutes or less
- Check plumbing and appliances for leaks and fix them within 48 hours
- Install high-efficiency appliances such as toilets, showerheads, faucets, dishwashers and clothes washers

Outdoor Tips:

- Limit landscape watering to two days per week in the summer

Drought Irrigation Schedule

Addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 7, 9) irrigate on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday (voluntarily elimination of Sunday watering requested)

Addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) irrigate on Monday, Thursday and Saturday (voluntary elimination of Saturday watering requested)

- Adjust sprinklers to reduce over spray and runoff
- Add two to three inches of organic mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.

Why does EGWD limit landscape watering and the days I'm allowed to water?

A watering schedule helps to make sure everyone is doing their part to limit landscape watering, which accounts for 65 percent of household use. Ultimately, you can make a big dent in your household water use by following the watering schedule.

EGWD Welcomes Two New Employees!

Two new employees recently joined the EGWD staff.

Administrative Assistant Cindy Robertson was born and raised right here in Elk Grove. Cindy will be assisting Stefani Phillips with human resources, board secretarial duties and field operations administration. She is a graduate of Hawaii Pacific University. When she's not at work, this animal lover cares for her family and enjoys running.

Jim Malberg is our new Finance Manager, joining the EGWD Leadership Team. Jim grew up in Lodi and has worked in financial management for over 18 years. When he's not on the job, this Dodger fan enjoys spending time with his family at weekend BBQ's, camping trips, and vacations. Jim holds a graduate degree from California State University, Stanislaus.

Jim will also act as the Board Treasurer for the Florin Resource Conservation District and the Economic Development Corporation.

Our Values: Leadership, Caring, Integrity, Professionalism, and Vision

Our Mission: Committed to supplying our customers with high quality, safe water along with outstanding customer service for current and future generations.

Capital Improvement Program Update

Every year, the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) assesses its facilities and determines where improvements, repairs or new facilities are required. For fiscal year 2014-2015, EGWD has a number of key projects planned that will improve the capacity and performance of the water system.

The first project is the replacement of an old, undersized water main in Melrose Avenue. This project, which installs a new 8-inch water main in the street, is nearly finished. EGWD field crews worked closely with the residents of Melrose Avenue before and during the project. EGWD is proud to report that this project was completed with minimal disturbances to the residents of Melrose Avenue.

Other key projects this year include the Hampton Village Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Refurbishment project and the SCADA Improvements project. Work has begun to rehabilitate the Hampton Village WTP which will add 1,000 gallons per minute of capacity and improve the reliability of EGWD's water system. The SCADA Improvements project is expected to start sometime after the first of the year. EGWD controls and operates the majority of its water wells through a centralized computer system called SCADA. SCADA-control of wells allows EGWD to trouble-shoot and optimize the performance of the water system. The SCADA Improvements project will connect the final, remaining wells to SCADA giving EGWD full control of all wells through SCADA.

For a complete list of capital improvement projects, visit our website at http://egwd.org/pdf/CIP_2015-2019-Final_rv7-23-14.pdf.

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