



The Water Drop

Elk Grove Water District



April 1, 2014

The Water Conservation Issue

Message from the General Manager

The 2014 calendar year promises 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. All water users in the Sacramento region are voluntarily, or mandatorily, reducing their water usage and potentially impacting quality of life. Farmers in selected parts of the State are fallowing fields, creating the potential for higher food costs. Flow releases for fish, such as those in the American River, have been curtailed threatening aquatic habitat and the environment.

Unfortunately, this situation has been predicted for decades and the State's water supply, storage, and delivery systems have become more and more strained in their ability to meet the increasing and sometimes competing demands. Fortunately, our water supplies here at the Elk Grove Water District are stable and this is largely due to the financial investments that you (our customers) have made over the last ten years. This does not mean, however, that we should not remain proactive and prudent in our conservation efforts; this situation could get worse.

It does mean that you can expect many legislative activities this year, including an anticipated water bond on the November 2014 ballot. In fact, there are now ten bills pending in the legislature containing various bond amounts to fund water projects throughout the State. The Elk Grove Water District has not adopted a position on these bills, but is tracking them closely. 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. You are more than welcome to attend. **-Mark**

What the Drought means to You

While many water agencies in the Sacramento region are dependent on Folsom Lake for their supply and are struggling to provide water for their customers, the Elk Grove Water District was able to report to its Board of Directors at the January board meeting that its supply is stable. Most of the District's water comes from wells located within the District's boundaries.

However, sufficient supply gives no reason for extravagance and EGWD cautions all users to conserve our most precious resource. The drought is forcing many water agencies that normally rely on surface water supplies to use wells. And those wells pull from the same aquifer as EGWD uses. The map below from the United States Geological Survey shows an approximation



The remaining portion comes from purchases from Sacramento County Water Agency. The District takes frequent soundings of each well to measure whether adequate supplies are available and interestingly, the groundwater table has increased recently!

of how many wells drill into the Central Valley aquifer. Those tiny dots prove that we all have a stake in California's water issues!

If you have questions about our water supply, please call us at 916-685-3556.

Get Audited! It's a Good Thing. Really!

There's never been a better time to get audited. EGWD offers FREE landscape irrigation audits to its customers. But what is a landscape irrigation audit?

Landscape irrigation audits are conducted by Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditors (CLIA), certified by the Irrigation Association. The home visit takes about an hour and includes a map of your landscape, notes on the type of plants and how they are irrigated and a test of your sprinkler system.

They can also perform a water use efficiency review of the inside of your home to help you save water indoors as well!

After an audit is completed, you will receive a report detailing the findings of the audit and recommendations for improving your irrigation system's efficiency. Usually, the report includes a recommendation for how long and when to water.

To schedule your free landscape irrigation audit, call 916-685-3556.

Capital Improvement Program Update

The Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) continues to make progress in its capital improvement projects planned for this fiscal year. One important project that is getting close to construction is the Hampton Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Refurbishment project. This project reactivates the Hampton WTP and will provide an additional 1000 gallons per minute of water source capacity to our system. Preliminary construction work for this project has already begun with the rehabilitation of the water well that supplies water to the Hampton WTP. The well rehabilitation is necessary to return the well to its maximum production level. Another important project that is midway through construction is the Well Destructions project. This project destroys seven old, inactive water wells per State and County requirements. Proper destruction of old, inactive water wells is important to protect against potential contamination of the groundwater basin. For a complete list of capital improvement projects, visit our website at http://egwd.org/pdf/CIP_2014-2018_Final.pdf.

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



A landscape irrigation audit under way!

Water Meter Retrofit Program

The Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) is nearing completion of a major capital improvement project – the Water Meter Retrofit Program. State law requires that all water suppliers have water meters installed on every customer connection by January 1, 2025. It is anticipated that full metering will also help urban water suppliers meet another State law requirement – a 20 percent reduction in

water use by year 2020. EGWD, like most other water agencies in California, has taken a proactive approach to getting meters installed in advance of the deadline. EGWD projects that it will be fully metered by the end of this fiscal year. Throughout this multi-year project, EGWD field personnel have worked hard to minimize disruptions to our customers during construction. As will all projects, EGWD strives to always be considerate of our customers' needs while safely performing work in your neighborhoods.

How Can I Reduce My Water Use by 20%?

Since about 65% of a house's water consumption is used to irrigate, following the recommendations of a landscape irrigation audit is one of the easiest ways to reduce your water use. Other ideas for saving water are:

- Run your clothes washer only with a full load. Some washers use as much as 45 gallons a load!
- Check your toilet for leaks. The rubber flapper in the tank should be replaced every two to three years. Check for leaks by putting a drop or two of food coloring into the tank, then wait, without flushing for about 15 minutes. If the water in the bowl turns color, you've got a leaky toilet!
- Sweep your driveway instead of hosing it down.
- Time your showers to five minutes or less.
- Attach a hose nozzle with an automatic shut off to all hoses.
- Use a water efficient showerhead with a shut off switch to save water while you soap up.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Reuse water. Water from your fish tank has natural nutrients already in it for your house plants! Put a bucket in your shower while it's warming up and use that water to water your tomatoes.
- Convert some of your landscape to more water efficient plants. Attend the Elk Grove Greener Gardens DIY Expo and Garden Tour for ideas: <http://www.elkgrovegreengardens.org/>
- Visit www.bewaterSMART.info for more ideas.

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