

## **DROUGHT UPDATE**

As many of you know, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has established mandatory conservation levels for all water agencies in the State in May of this year. A tiered system of conservation levels was established and RMWD was placed in the 36% reduction category. Each month, we are compelled to report our total residential consumption and our target is to use 36% less water than we did for the same month in 2013.



Our conservation total in June was 21%, which missed the mark by 15%. Our outreach on this program had just begun at the time and June was very warm, so this is understandable. Our conservation went up to 31% in July as there were unusual rains that month. We are still calculating August, but it looks like we went back to around a 20% reduction.

Since we missed the target, on August 31<sup>st</sup> the SWRCB has issued a Conservation Order which mandates that we take certain actions, including:

- Hire a full time conservation coordinator
- Hire two part time employees to perform patrols looking for water waste
- Consider establishing a drought surcharge on the water rates
- Begin the process of implementing tiered water rates to encourage conservation
- Expand our outreach and conservation programs
- Increase the number of water audits for customers

We were disappointed that the State took this action and are trying to work with them to remove some of these requirements. However, in the meantime we are working toward complying with the Order. Regrettably many of these requirements come with increased costs, which may affect water rates. We are doing everything we can to minimize this as we know how hard our customers have already worked to reduce consumption over the last 10 years.

In order to prevent additional actions by the SWRCB, we are increasing our outreach to our residential customers to eliminate water waste. We need everyone to check their irrigation systems to make sure there are no leaks, broken heads, overspray, or other conditions that use more water than is needed. If you are unsure about how to go about this, we offer free, no obligation water audits where an expert will come to your home and do a thorough evaluation. Only a handful of our customers have taken advantage of this service this year and we are confident that most customers can save water, and save money, by having this audit done.

Information about the audit is on the reverse side of this newsletter. We appreciate your continued efforts to eliminate water waste and help to meet our target reductions.

### **BEWARE OF IMPOSTERS!!**

*It has been recently reported impostors are trying to collect water bills or sell water treatment devices using false or misleading statements about the quality or contents of your water. If someone comes to your house saying they are a Rainbow Municipal Water District utility service worker, check them out. All RMWD vehicles and staff have accessible identifiers. It's worth being aware of the potential for people to take advantage of the drought.*

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*Commercial, Multifamily, Public and Single-Family Properties*

## Want to control your irrigation costs?

## Get a WaterSmart Checkup and find out how.

A WaterSmart Checkup is your free opportunity to receive site-specific water-saving recommendations. You will benefit from the perspective of our certified irrigation professionals. And you decide if and when to put the suggestions to work.

We offer several different Checkup services and will match your property to the best available option. Participation is limited, so don't miss out. If you own or manage a commercial, multifamily, industrial, public or single-family property, apply today.

Single-family home checkups also include recommendations to increase indoor water-use efficiency.

1. Complete an **easy application** at [www.watersmartcheckup.org](http://www.watersmartcheckup.org).
2. **We schedule** an irrigation survey (site walk-through) for approved applicants.
3. We provide **observations, recommendations**, and if applicable, **test results**.
4. **You choose** what you will implement and when. There's **no obligation**.
5. **Start saving!** Although water-savings varies by property, you may save up to 20 percent or more.

- ✓ Free.
- ✓ No obligation.
- ✓ Site-specific recommendations.
- ✓ Prepare for seasonal irrigation changes.

### Apply today. Participation is limited.

*Participating Agencies: Carlsbad Municipal Water District, City of Del Mar, City of Escondido, Fallbrook Public Utilities District, City of Oceanside, Otay Water District, Padre Dam MWD, City of Poway, Rainbow MWD, Ramona MWD, San Dieguito Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Vallecitos Water District, Valley Center MWD and Vista Irrigation District.*

Services provided by **Mission Resource Conservation District**

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