



THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 9 ISSUE 20 FALL 2008

Thank You!

The Spring 2008 *WaterLine* requested NMWD customers to reduce outdoor watering and use no more water than summer 2007. To date NMWD customers have responded well and we are on track to meet that target. Water stored in Lake Mendocino is sufficient for release into the Russian River this fall as the Chinook salmon begin their migration and spawning.

Protection of the fish in the Russian River is of upmost concern to continue diverting water for urban and agricultural water use. The National Marine Fisheries Service has just released a Biological Opinion (BO) directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) to change operation of the Russian River system to better protect the fish. This will be an expensive and long effort, now estimated at \$100 million over 15 years. Compliance with changes directed in the BO will enable water diversions to SCWA customers including NMWD to continue. (To see current Russian River salmon migration information and learn more about the BO, go to www.sonomacountywater.org).

Locally NMWD has significantly raised connection fees for new development to pay for expansion of the Russian



River Transmission System, expansion of the Recycled Water system and the majority of water conservation costs, which collectively will assure that water is available for new growth in Novato when it occurs. The cost of water service to existing Novato customers continues

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to be an excellent value and is the lowest among comparable urban water providers in the San Francisco Bay Area (for a comparison chart, see the NMWD Web site at www.nmwd.com).

Win a New Washer!

Enter to Win! NMWD is giving away a FREE water- and energy-efficient clothes washer to recognize customer water conservation efforts. This High-Efficiency Clothes Washer can **save up to 50% of water and 65% of energy** when compared to conventional top-loading clothes washers.

The winner will be selected from eligible entries. Please include all information requested on the entry form below. NMWD customers only. Entries must be received by May 18, 2009. The drawing will be held at the Board of Directors meeting on May 19, 2009.

WIN a High-Efficiency Clothes Washer!

Customer Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Customer No. _____
(from your water bill)

Questions? Call 897-4133 ext. 8711

Clip and mail to: North Marin Water District
PO Box 146
Novato, CA 94948

Fall is Here!

Shorter days and cooler temperatures are here. Remember to turn off or adjust watering times for your irrigation system. As plants slow their growth with the decreasing daylight, they also slow down their water use. Cut back on watering as needed — sometimes by as much one third to one half.

Water Smart Home Survey

Are you water smart? North Marin Water District offers **free** *Water Smart Home Surveys* as the corner stone of the *Water Smart Savings Program* (see back page). This free service includes indoor and outdoor water efficiency checks, a landscape irrigation system efficiency test and a leak detection test.

Our friendly, knowledgeable survey technicians can show how you can easily conserve more water and save money, and we'll even give you money-saving rebate and incentive information to get you started. Best of all, your appointment can be scheduled at a time that is convenient for you. Weekend appointments are now available!

Call today to schedule an appointment!

415-897-4133 ext. 8711

Water Smart Savings Program

More water saving programs at www.nmwd.com!

North Marin Water District wants to help customers conserve water and reduce water waste. That's why we've put all of our water saving promotions under one umbrella. The *Water Smart Savings Program* encompasses all you need to get started on saving water and saving money.

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate

High-efficiency clothes washers can save up to 50% of the water used and 65% of the energy used compared to conventional top-loading clothes washers. NMWD currently offers an outstanding rebate to customers when they purchase qualifying High-efficiency clothes washers.

Rebate Amount: Up to \$200 for qualifying washer purchased before December 31, 2008.

How to Participate: Applications should be available at the point of purchase.

High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Don't flush money away. Now you can get a rebate of up to \$150 per High-Efficiency Toilet (HET) when you replace your non-water-conserving toilets. HETs use 20% less water than standard ultra-low flush toilets, so not only will you save water, but you'll save money, too. HETs eligible for rebate must be on the District Approved List of Qualified Models.

Rebate Amount: Up to \$150 for each qualifying HET. Rebate amount for HET good through the end of each calendar year (December 31), or until funds are depleted.

How to Participate: During your *Water Smart Home Survey*, your NMWD representative can conduct the simple pre-inspection.

Water Smart Home Survey

See front page.

Water Smart Landscape Rebate

Efficient landscapes can be achieved through a number of strategies including efficient irrigation devices and equipment, and soil maintenance. You may be eligible for rebates when you install District-qualified water-efficient landscape equipment including:

- Drip irrigation systems
- Water pressure-regulating device
- Check valves
- Multi-stream rotating sprinkler nozzles (for lawn areas only)
- Rain shut-off devices
- Mulch
- Soil conditioner/amendment

Rebate Amount: 50% of the actual cost of District-approved items, up to a maximum of \$200 for residential customers.

How to Participate: Confirm eligibility during your Water Smart Home Survey to identify water-efficient landscape actions to be taken.

Cash for Grass

Lawns require a tremendous amount of water to keep healthy. As part of the *Water Smart Savings Program*, you can get cash back when you remove all or part of your lawn and re-landscape with California native low water use plants or District approved synthetic turf. See Web site or call for complete program details and requirements.

Rebate Amount: Up to \$1.00 per square foot of lawn removed, maximum rebate of \$1,000.

How to Participate: Develop a qualifying landscape plan and plant list and call NMWD at 415-897-4133, ext. 8711, to schedule a brief pre-inspection.

www.nmwd.com

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