



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 11 ISSUE 24 FALL 2010

Currently, 80 percent of Novato's water supply comes from the Russian River with the remainder, principally in the summer months, from Stafford Lake and some recycled water.

Most recently, NMWD constructed a new surface water treatment plant at Stafford Lake to meet evermore stringent water quality requirements and improve efficiency of treating our local supply. The District has also constructed a recycled water treatment facility to deliver highly polished recycled water to Stone Tree Golf Course for irrigation.

NMWD is working with Novato Sanitary District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District to expand the use of recycled water in Novato. The expanded Novato projects are part of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (see box at right) and are estimated to cost nearly \$21M.

The current agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency authorizes delivery of Russian River water to meet NMWD's existing and future needs. However, in September 2009, the Sonoma County Water Agency Board abandoned further work on a decades-long plan to expand the Russian River water transmission

system and acquire additional water rights that would be necessary to meet the future water supply needs for NMWD and other water contractors from Windsor to Petaluma. NMWD and other water retailers receiving Russian River



supplies are still obligated to pay for necessary fishery enhancements on the Russian River system to protect coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout which are listed as "endangered" or "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Additionally, in November 2009, the state legislature mandated further water conservation for all California urban water retailers, including NMWD, requiring a 20% reduction in per capita water use by the year 2020. Current per capita water use in Novato is 179 gallons per person per day.

What all this means for NMWD is an increased emphasis on water use efficiency and continued reliance on our existing available supplies from the Russian River and Stafford Lake plus expanded use of recycled water to offset potable supplies now used for outside irrigation.

The current cost of water service for a typical Novato customer is a good value when compared to 16 other urban area retail water agencies (see the NMWD website). That cost will increase over time to meet the obligations noted in this message.

Expanded Recycled Water is Coming!

NMWD is working with Novato Sanitary District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District to expand the use of recycled water in Novato. Recycled water is currently being used to irrigate Stone Tree Golf Course and Novato Fire Station No. 2. The expanded Novato projects are part of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA). NBWRA was awarded \$7.3 million in Federal Economic Stimulus Funds in September 2010. NMWD will receive approximately 25% of these funds to be used for recycled water expansion in the Novato north and south (Hamilton) service areas over the next two years.

Water Smart Home Survey for Fall & Winter



This Fall and Winter NMWD will be focusing on indoor water use, and we have adapted the survey to include commercial and other non-residential customers.

Our friendly, knowledgeable survey technicians can show you how you can easily become more water efficient and save money, and we'll even give you money-saving rebate and incentive information to get you started. You'll also get free low-flow showerheads and aerators as needed to achieve maximum water use efficiency. Remember that your

wastewater charges are calculated from your winter water use, so now is an important time to make sure you are using water efficiently.

Indoors, we will survey:

- Faucets
- Showerheads
- Toilets
- Dishwashers
- Clothes washers
- Other water-using devices in the home

Call today to schedule your **Free Water Smart Home Survey:** 415-897-4133 ext. 8711



999 Rush Creek Place
PO Box 146
Novato, CA 94948
(415) 897-4133

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Water Smart Savings Program

More water saving programs at www.nmwd.com

North Marin Water District wants to help customers use water efficiently. 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. Call (415) 897-4133 ext. 8711 for program details.

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 your lawn and re-landscape with California native low-water use plants or District approved synthetic turf. See website or call NMWD at 897-4133 ext. 8421 for complete program details and requirements. Pre-inspection and re-landscaping plan approval required.

Rebate Amount: Up to \$1 per square foot of lawn removed depending on project scope, maximum rebate of \$1,000. Rebates available until funds are depleted. Dead or already removed lawns do not qualify.

Rainwater Harvesting Rebate

With the rainy season here, now is the perfect time to install a rainwater harvesting system, and District rebates may be available. Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rainwater for reuse in landscape irrigation. Systems can range from simple catchment devices, such as rain barrels, to more complex systems, such as cisterns or storage tanks.

Rebate Amount: \$0.25 per gallon of storage, up to \$150. Call for participation details.

Graywater and Well Water Rebate Program

Rebates for greywater system and new well installations through the demand Offset Pilot Program. Pre-inspection and plan approval required.

Rebate Amount: Call for participation details and rebate values.

Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Rebate

Water 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. Commercial customers are also eligible. Rebates available until funds are depleted. Additional rebates are available for qualified Smart Irrigation Controllers. Pre-inspection and project approval required.

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. (www.nmwd.com)

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