



NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT

# THE WATER LINE

WEST MARIN'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 11 • SPRING 2014

## It's A Drought – Save Water!

Dry year conditions exist on Lagunitas Creek

Water supplied by North Marin Water District (NMWD) to our West Marin customers is diverted from shallow wells adjacent to Lagunitas Creek near the U.S. Coast Guard Housing Facility in Point Reyes Station. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has determined that Lagunitas Creek is fully appropriated in summer months of dry years and has ordered NMWD to find an alternative source of water during July through October of dry years. (A dry year occurs when total precipitation from October 1 to April 1 is less than 28 inches measured at Marin Municipal Water District's Kent Lake). NMWD has complied by purchasing a portion of the more senior Giacomini Ranch water right to use during those periods.

Rainfall at Kent Lake through April 1, 2014 totals just under 28 inches. Dry year conditions are in place on Lagunitas Creek. This is the first dry year since Water Right Order 95-17 was adopted by the SWRCB in October 1995. Pursuant to the order, Lagunitas Creek flows are currently

being maintained by Marin Municipal Water District at the regulated threshold of 14cfs (cubic feet per second, or about 6,300 gallons per minute) and will drop to 10cfs on May 1st and to 6cfs on June 16th. This will be the first summer in which NMWD has operated the West



Marin Water System with such low creek flows and without the Giacomini Ranch summer dam to prevent salinity intrusion into the water supply.

A public hearing was held on April 1st where **the Board of Directors declared a water shortage emergency in NMWD's West Marin Service Area**, the West Marin Water Shortage Contingency Plan was enacted and an Emergency

Water Conservation Ordinance was adopted. **From April 1 through June 30**, customers are asked to **voluntarily reduce water consumption by 15%** compared to the same billing period last year. Beginning **on July 1, a mandatory 25% reduction in water use will be in place**. Customers using less than 200gpd (gallons per day) are already in compliance, but are requested to conserve more if possible. Customers using more than 200gpd may be subject to a **"drought surcharge"** which **will be considered at a public hearing in the Point Reyes Station Dance Palace on June 24th**. You can see your water use history and target to reduce 25% by visiting the NMWD website [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com), select the YOUR ACCOUNT tab and click on Account Balance & Consumption.

NMWD customers are encouraged to use water efficiently during this drought period, reduce outdoor irrigation and participate in NMWD Water Use Efficiency Programs described in this *Water Line* and at [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).

Smart move.

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# Water Smart Savings Program

Call (415) 761-8944 for program details or visit [www.nmwd.com](http://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) 761-8944 for program details or visit [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).



## High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Don't flush money away. Now you can get a rebate when you replace your non-water-conserving toilets with a High-Efficiency Toilet (HET). 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 EPA WaterSense models. Call for rebate values and participation details or visit [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).



## High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program

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 a rebate to customers when they purchase a qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer. Call for rebate value and participation details, or visit [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).



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## 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 (call for rebate amounts and participation details or visit [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com)) when you install District-qualified water-efficient landscape equipment including:

- Spray to drip irrigation conversions
- Weather Based Irrigation Controllers
- Multi-stream rotating sprinkler nozzles (for lawn areas only)
- Rain shut-off devices
- Mulch



## Cash for Grass



As part of the Water Smart Savings Program, you can get cash back when you remove your regularly mowed and irrigated lawn and re-landscape with California native low-water use plants or District approved synthetic turf. Pre-inspection and re-landscaping plan approval required. Call for rebate values and complete program participation details or visit [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).

## Rainwater Harvesting and Graywater Rebate



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. Rebates are also available for greywater system installations. Pre-inspection and plan approval required. Call for participation details and rebate values.