



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 16 ISSUE 32 SPRING 2014

It's A Drought – Save Water!

Reduce Water Use by 20%

The extremely dry conditions through January 2014 have been tempered with rainfall in February and March. Novato rainfall this water year is less than 12.5 inches, 46% of average Novato rainfall. This follows low water years in 2012 (16.3”) and 2013 (20.3”). Stafford Lake currently is at 64% of capacity. On the Russian River both Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino are substantially lower than this time in 2009 when Russian River water deliveries were reduced by 25%.

Lake Mendocino, which collects runoff from the upper Russian River watershed and water diverted from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (PVP), is part of a system that makes up 80% of NMWD's Novato water supply. Water stored in Lake Mendocino is released into the Russian River to support recreation, urban and agricultural water supply and fisheries. Currently Lake Mendocino is at 50% of capacity. Communities on the upper Russian River are under mandatory water use restrictions, while water users downstream of Lake Sonoma, including NMWD, are being asked to voluntarily conserve.

Chinook salmon, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), migrate up the Russian River in the fall of the year and spawn in the upper Russian River. Cold water releases from Lake Mendocino are needed in the fall of the year to support the

Chinook salmon migration and spawning. The water level in Lake Mendocino is low this year due to below normal rainfall during the last three winters and reduced water diversions through the PVP ordered by the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service to protect fisheries in the Eel River.



*The official
hose of 2014.*

**There's a Drought On.
Turn the Water Off.**

On April 1, the NMWD Board of Directors declared a Water Shortage Emergency, enacted the Novato Water Shortage Contingency Plan and adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance calling for customers to reduce water use by 20% compared to the same period last year through voluntary measures. This can be achieved by eliminating water waste and non-essential uses of

water and reducing water applied to your landscaped areas. NMWD hopes to avoid any individual customer water rationing this year. Below contains a summary of the water use restrictions now in effect. The 20% voluntary conservation request is consistent with Governor Brown's January request when all California was declared in drought conditions.

You can see your water use history and voluntary water use reduction target for your account at www.nmwd.com. Select the YOUR ACCOUNT tab and click on Account Balance & Consumption. Once you determine your voluntary water use reduction target, visit www.wateroff.org and access the WATER SAVINGS CALCULATOR link under the TIPS button to explore water saving measures that you can undertake to reach your target. This voluntary water use reduction target is for your information and individual customer rationing is not projected at this time. Customers using less than 143 gallons per person per day have already met the conservation target.

In the past Novato customers have done their share to aid the Russian River system in low water years and we are hopeful you will participate again. Working together we can do our part with all Russian River users to preserve water for fishery protection.

Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance Summary

North Marin Water District has adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance, prohibiting waste of water and non-essential uses to meet the 20% voluntary water use reduction target.

THE PROHIBITIONS INCLUDE:

Effective April 1, 2014 until the Ordinance is rescinded

- 1) Gutter flooding (unreasonable irrigation overspray or irrigation run-off onto pavement, down a gutter, ditch or other surface drain).
- 2) Failure to repair a leak within a reasonable amount of time.
- 3) Washing down exterior paved areas.
- 4) Washing privately owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats except from a bucket and hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- 5) Refilling a pool drained after July 1, 2014 or initial filling of a pool.

The full Emergency Conservation Ordinance can be viewed at www.nmwd.com.

Call today to schedule your **Free Water Smart Home Survey:** 707-547-1909



High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Don't flush money away. Now you can get a rebate when you replace your non-water-conserving toilet 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 approved models. Call for rebate values and participation details or visit 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.

Water Smart Home Survey

NMWD offers free *Water Smart Home Surveys* as the cornerstone of the *Water Smart Savings Program*. 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. Best of all, your appointment can be scheduled at a time that is convenient for you. **How to Participate?** Call (707) 547-1909 to set up your free appointment.

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 District approved 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.



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www.nmwd.com

**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

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Lose Your Lawn Workshops

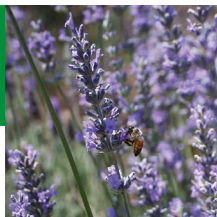


**Sheet Mulching and
Home Composting**

Saturday, June 7th 10:00 am

**Gardening with Nature:
Drought Tolerant Habitat for
Bees, Butterflies and Birds**

Saturday, June 21st 10:00 am



Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

Saturday May 17 - 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Visit beautiful gardens in Novato and learn about sustainable practices such as lawn conversions; native gardens to attract birds, butterflies and bees; and saving water with drought resistant plants.

Native plant sale all day

Seminars:

11:00 am: Creating a Low Water and Low Maintenance Garden

1:00 pm: Sheet-mulching demonstration

2:00 pm: Top 5 Natives for Your Garden



Location: 999 Rush Creek Place NMWD Office

Sign up: Send an email to waterconserve@nmwd.com or call (415) 761-8944

SIGN UP for the tour at: www.savingwaterpartnership.org