



# THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 8 ISSUE 17 SUMMER 2007

## Russian River Water Withdrawals Reduced 15%

This summer the competing interests using Russian River water have come to a head resulting in a "Regulatory" drought or water shortage. 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 at its lowest level since 1977 for this time of year.

Water stored in Lake Mendocino is released into the Russian River to support recreation, urban and agricultural water supply and fisheries. 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.

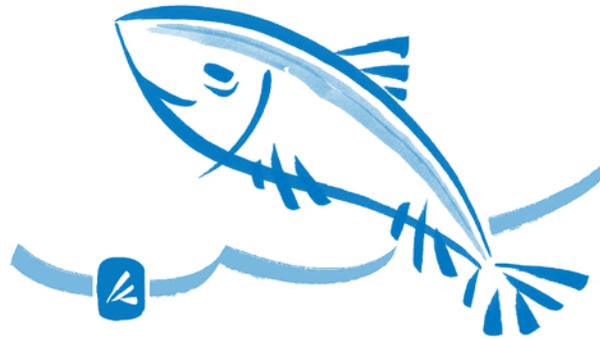
The water level in Lake Mendocino is low this year due to below normal rainfall last winter and reduced water diversions through the PVP ordered by the Federal Energy Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to protect fisheries in the Eel River. Even though rainfall last winter was below normal, the criteria used by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to determine Russian River in-stream flow requirements call for normal year conditions. Maintaining normal year in-stream flows would draw down Lake Mendocino to unprecedented levels, leaving not enough water for the fall Chinook Salmon run. So, in April, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) requested that the SWRCB authorize reduced in-stream flows in the Russian River to preserve storage in Lake Mendocino. Urban water users, including North Marin Water District, were asked to voluntarily reduce water use, also to preserve storage in Lake Mendocino.

The SWRCB did authorize the reduced in-stream flows to preserve water in Lake Mendocino for the fall

Chinook Salmon run, but also placed mandatory requirements to reduce Russian River withdrawals for urban uses by 15% from July through October.

Meanwhile, Lake Sonoma's water supply pool is currently 93% full and ample for the region's needs. Releases from Lake Sonoma flow down Dry Creek to the Russian River to the location where SCWA water withdrawals are made. Coho salmon, which are listed as endangered under the ESA, use Dry Creek as rearing habitat in the summer months to grow before out-migration to the ocean in the fall. Increasing releases from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek runs the risk of washing out an entire population of coho salmon and NMFS won't allow that to happen.

In preparation for this, NMWD has invested in the Stafford Treatment Plant to make sure it's available to treat our local Stafford Lake source of supply in the summer months. Second, a just completed recycled water treatment project is now delivering highly treated wastewater from Novato Sanitary District to Stone Tree Golf Course which frees up potable supply previously used for golf course irrigation. Additionally, we're asking customers to reduce their outside water use by 20% and have enacted an Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance.



### Novato Water – It's Worth Saving!

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# EMERGENCY Water Conservation Ordinance

Dry weather conditions this year have resulted in an order from the State Water Resources Control Board to reduce Russian River water deliveries by 15% from July 1 through October 28. In response, NMWD has adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance, which prohibits waste of water and non-essential uses and enacts enforcement procedures for violations.

## THE PROHIBITIONS INCLUDE:

- Landscape watering beyond the hours of **10:00 PM and 6:00 AM** of the next day except that hand watering from a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle or container or drip system;
- Gutter Flooding (i.e. irrigation overspray or irrigation run-off onto pavement);
- Failure to repair a controllable leak of water within a reasonable time (72 hours);
- Washing down exterior paved areas (except Novato Fire Protection District or other public agency may do so for public safety);
- Using water for non-recycling decorative fountains;
- Refilling a swimming pool drained after July 1, 2007 or initial filling of a swimming pool for which building permit was issued after July 1, 2007;
- Washing privately-owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats except from a bucket and hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle;
- Use of water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fires, human consumption, essential construction needs or use in connection with animals;
- Pools and hot tubs must be covered when not in use.

## “TOP 10” Water Conservation Tip List

North Marin Water District, in partnership with Sonoma County Water Agency and other Marin and Sonoma water utilities, have developed a list of the Top Ten Water Conservation Tips for customers to follow and help reduce water usage by 15%. These tips are consistent with NMWD's Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance.



Over-watering your lawn?

## HERE ARE THE TOP TEN TIPS:

1. Reduce irrigation by 20%.
2. Find and repair leaks now.
3. Inspect and tune-up irrigation system monthly.
4. Irrigate between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. the next day to reduce water loss from evaporation and wind.
5. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveway, deck or patio.
6. Use a bucket and a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle when you wash the car, or take the car to a carwash that recycles.
7. Cover pools and hot-tubs to reduce evaporation.
8. Use front-load washing machines.
9. Run the dishwasher and clothes washer with full loads only.
10. Prevent and report water waste.

# Menu Of Water Conservation Programs

## ~ Outdoor Programs ~

### “Water Smart” Home Survey Program

Water use surveys free to all residential customers. Includes an indoor plumbing fixture efficiency check, landscape irrigation efficiency test and leak detection tests.

### “WaterLine” Newsletter

Mailed to customers in spring and fall. Spring issue has each individual customer’s chart of water use compared to typical for the prior year.

### Cash-For-Grass

Rebate program for removing regularly-mowed and irrigated lawn and replacing with eligible low water use California native plant material. Pre- and post-inspections are required.

### Swimming Pool Cover Rebate

Rebate available (\$50) for purchase of a swimming pool cover. Covers must be a solar or safety cover, with non-netted material, 12 mil in thickness, and at least 450 sq. ft

### Mulch/Irrigation Incentive

Cash-for-Grass participants are eligible for rebates of 25% of mulch purchases (up to \$100).

### Demonstration Garden

Water-conserving demonstration garden at NMWD headquarters for customers to visit and learn about different low water use plant material.

### New Residential Construction Landscape Requirements

No more than 800 square feet of turf, and non-turf areas must be irrigated with a drip system and mulched. No turf strips less than 7 feet wide are allowed, and weather-based irrigation controllers must be installed.

### Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebates available for District-approved, weather-based irrigation controllers (up to \$450).

## ~ Indoor Programs ~

### Toilet Rebates

Rebates for replacement of all older non-conserving toilets with High-Efficiency Toilets (HET). \$150 rebate for toilets on qualified District list. Older toilets must be pre-inspected and recycled. HETs use 20% less water than standard ultra low flush toilets.

### Screwdriver Maintenance

Free leak detection tablets, showerheads and sink aerators.

### Flapper Rebates

Rebates for purchase of new toilet flappers (up to \$5).

### Plumbing Fixture Replacement Upon Change of Ownership

Also known as “Retrofit on Resale.” Upon change of dwelling ownership, seller must certify that all toilets, showerheads and sink aerators meet current water conservation standards (can synchronize with Toilet [HET] Rebate Program).

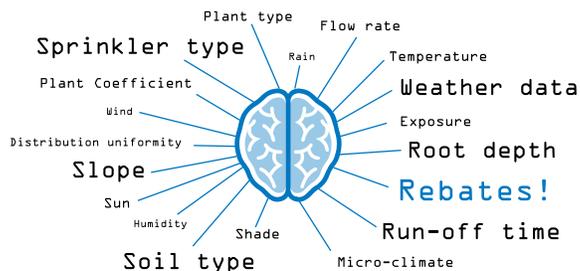
### High-Efficiency Washing Machine Program

Rebate program for existing residential customer purchase of qualified, high-efficiency clothes washing machines (\$100 – \$150).

## Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate

Take the guess work out of your irrigation scheduling with a controller that automatically adjusts to the local weather. Rebate available (up to \$450) for qualified weather based irrigation controllers. Landscape size and irrigation must meet specific criteria.

To water your lawn efficiently, take these factors into consideration and program your timer daily.



Call 897-4133, ext. 8421  
[www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com)

Or get a “Smart” Controller.  
It has the brains to calculate water needs and program itself!

# High-Efficiency Toilet Giveaway

**North Marin Water District will distribute 350 FREE High-Efficiency Toilets (HETs) to eligible customers on Saturday, September 15, 2007.**

A preview of the Caroma Dual Flush HET (Royale 305) model is on display in the NMWD lobby. These Caroma Dual Flush HETs have an excellent performance record and have a fantastic warranty. Here is your chance to upgrade your toilets.



## QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Participants must be customers of North Marin Water District. Participants must bring a water bill and picture ID to the giveaway event.
2. Participating customers must change all older toilets manufactured before 1992 that use more than 1.6 gallons per flush (GPF). Customers are

not eligible if the existing toilet is already a 1.6 GPF toilet.

3. Participating customer must install the new HET and recycle old toilet(s) within three weeks of the distribution. The District has retained the services of a recycler to pick up the old toilet(s) from your house free of charge. Failure to install the new HET and recycle the old toilet(s) will result in a \$150 charge per toilet on the customer's next water bill.

## HET GIVEAWAY DETAILS:

- Where:** NMWD Office  
999 Rush Creek Place  
Novato, CA 94945
- When:** Saturday, September 15, 2007
- Times:** 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Information:** (415) 897-4133 ext. 8421
- Installation & Recycling:** Complete by October 6, 2007



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