



THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 9 ISSUE 19 SPRING 2008

Dry Spring Conditions

Last summer, Novato customers were subject to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) mandated reduction in Russian River water diversions and the resulting NMWD Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance. The efforts paid off as some 1,959 Chinook salmon returned to spawn in the upper Russian River last fall.

This spring, more water is stored in Lake Mendocino on the Russian River system than last spring, and it is hoped to be sufficient to meet instream flow needs for the endangered salmon populations. At this time, mandatory summer water use restrictions are not contemplated.

However, this is a very dry spring. Plants are thirsty and require irrigation earlier. Over 50% of summer water use is for landscape irrigation and customers are urged to conserve water and participate in NMWD Water Conservation Programs outlined in this edition of the *Water Line*.

Locally, Stafford Lake is full and the Stafford Treatment Plant has started production. Additionally, the Deer Island Recycled Water facility has started delivering highly treated recycled water to Stone Tree Golf Course for irrigation.

Your personal water use graph on page 2 compares your actual 2007 water use to the water use of a typical Novato single family customer (in gallons per day or gpd). The graph is divided into 6 bi-monthly water billing periods. NMWD customers are urged to **reduce outdoor watering, use no more water than last summer and again achieve a 15% reduction this summer.**

Is Your Home Water Smart?

Find out how your home measures up by taking part in a FREE Water Smart Home Survey. It's never been easier to save water and lower your water use footprint. We will visit your home to analyze your inside and outside water use and provide free water saving tools to help you reduce and become more

water use efficient. You will receive a written report on your home that will tell you how much water is being used each day, which appliances and fixtures may need to be updated, which rebates you may qualify for, and more. We also create a custom water schedule for your landscape and irrigation system.

- Free low-flow shower heads and aerators
- Water saving tips
- Money saving rebates
- Learn how to read your meter
- Find leaks

Call the Water Smart Home Program today to set up an appointment: (707) 547-1910



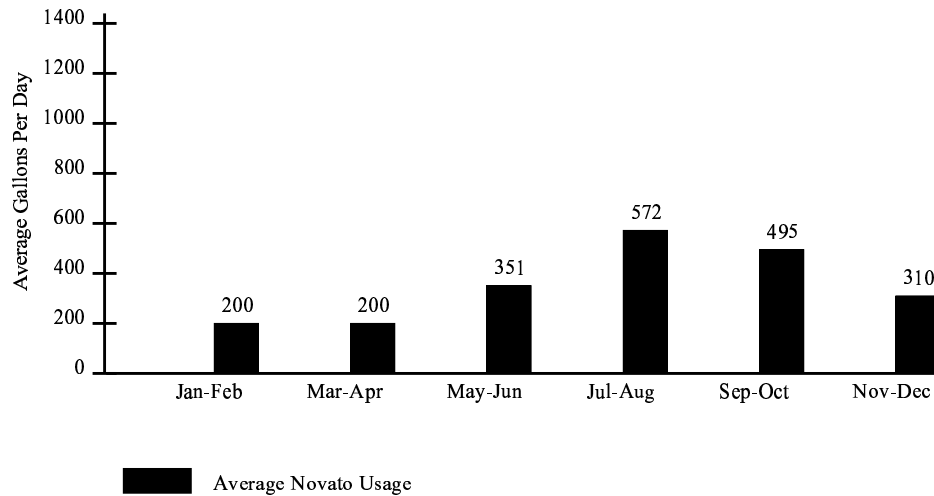
Novato Water – It's Worth Saving!

If every Novato home reduces irrigation timing by two minutes each day, Novato will save ONE MILLION gallons of water EACH DAY during the summer.

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YOUR PERSONAL WATER USE GRAPH



Typical Novato Annual Household
Water Use Footprint
(Gallons Per Day)

How to Read Your Water Use Graph

The shaded bars in the graph above depict your actual water use in 2007 compared to the typical water use for Novato Single Family homes (solid bars). The graph shows water use in gallons per day for each billing period. The District assumes that your indoor water use is the lowest shown above, which typically occurs in the winter when you are not using water outside. This assumed indoor water use helps you visualize water use indoors compared to outdoors, especially during the May through October period. While NMWD is requesting a 15% reduction in outdoor water use, it is also important to save water indoors when possible.

In the legend, your household annual water use “footprint” is noted and compared to the typical Novato household annual water use footprint. Please review the Water Conservation Menu (page 3) to learn about programs NMWD offers to help assist your water conservation efforts to reduce your water use footprint.

Note: Customers with less than a full year of water use in 2007, and customers in multi-unit dwellings receive a graph and footprint showing only the typical Novato household water use.

Call 897-4133, ext. 8421

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 automatically irrigated lawn and replacing with eligible low water use California native plant material or synthetic turf. Pre- and post-inspections are required.

Swimming Pool Cover Rebate

Rebate available (up to \$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). Coupon available at www.nmwd.com.

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 (now combined with PG&E for a \$125 or \$200 rebate).

Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership

NMWD and other water utilities served water by the Sonoma County Water Agency have joined together to create the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership. The partners include the cities of Cotati, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Sonoma, the North Marin Water District, Valley of the Moon Water District, Marin Municipal Water District, and the Town of Windsor. The goal of the partnership is to maximize cost-effective water conservation in Sonoma and Marin counties.

In the future, it is expected that per capita water use comparisons between retail water agencies will be made,

and currently the average NMWD per capita water use is high. You can reduce your water use by reducing sprinkler run time (8 minutes instead of 10) or changing your toilets, showerheads and sink aerators. NMWD also offers customers a **FREE Water Smart Home Survey** (featured on page 1) to become more water use efficient. The biggest water conserving “Bang for Your Buck” is reducing outdoor water use. Review your personal graph above and identify your household use compared to the Novato average.



"BOTTLE YOUR OWN" FREE WATER BOTTLE!

Keep a supply of chilled drinking water in your refrigerator at all times with this attractive water bottle, FREE from NMWD. Exchange this coupon at the NMWD office to receive your FREE water bottle. Available through June 30, 2008, for the first 500 coupons redeemed. Limit one bottle per household.

Customer Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Check box if you wish to receive email newsletters about exciting programs offered by NMWD.
Your information will not be used for anything other than NMWD purposes.

Water Savings = Mulch = Water Savings

\$5 Courtesy of Marin Landscape Materials / \$5 Courtesy of North Marin Water District

\$10 OFF

your next purchase of MULCH at Marin Landscape Materials

7596 Redwood Blvd.

Shredded redwood, single or double grind. One yard minimum. Good for one purchase only.
One coupon per NMWD customer. Valid until June 30, 2008

The Great Flapper Giveaway

Date _____ Number of toilets in household _____

Number of flappers purchased _____

Total purchase price (include receipt) _____

Customer Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Customer No. (from your water bill) _____

- Clip & mail to: North Marin Water District, P.O. Box 146, Novato, CA 94948
- For participation rules, visit www.nmwd.com or call 897-4133 ext. 8421.

Novato Water – It's Worth Saving! Suburban Habitats – Are Worth Creating!

Questions about low water use native plants?

Want to water your landscape efficiently?

NMWD offers a FREE seminar at the
Novato Suburban Habitat store.

- Sunday, June 29, 2008 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
- Suburban Habitat: 866 Grant Avenue, Novato.

- Limited space available.
- Call (415) 898-7678 or visit Suburban Habitat to sign-up. Participants will receive a free low water use native plant and special discounts on water efficient irrigation equipment



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