

The Waterline

West Marin Service Area Newsletter | Volume 17 | Spring 2020



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

Water Supply Update Spring 2020

Drew McIntyre, General Manager

Water supplied by North Marin Water District (NMWD) to our West Marin customers is diverted from shallow wells adjacent to Lagunitas Creek near the former U.S. Coast Guard Housing Facility in Point Reyes Station and on Gallagher Ranch. 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 from July to October during dry years. (A dry year occurs when the total precipitation from October 1 to April 1 is less than 28 inches as measured at Marin Municipal Water District's Kent Lake). NMWD has complied with this request by purchasing a portion of the Giacomini Ranch water rights to use during these periods.

Rainfall at Kent Lake through April 1, 2020 totals just under 24 inches and dry year conditions are now in place on Lagunitas Creek. This is the second dry year since Water Right Order 95-17 was adopted by the SWRCB in October 1995 (the first was in 2014). Pursuant to the order, Lagunitas Creek flows are currently being maintained by Marin Municipal Water District at the regulated threshold of 14 cfs (cubic feet per second, or about 6,300 gallons per minute) and will drop to 10 cfs on May 1 and to 6 cfs on June 16.

A public hearing was held on May 5, 2020 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 May 5 to June 30, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 15% when



compared to the corresponding billing period in 2013 (the most recent pre-drought normal year). Beginning on July 1, a mandatory 25% reduction in water use will be in place (also when compared to the corresponding billing period in 2013). Customers are also required to implement other conservation measures intended to eliminate the waste of water. Many customers have already reduced their water use to less than these mandated reduction levels and customers using less than 200gpd (gallons per day) are already in compliance, but are requested to conserve more if possible. A drought surcharge for customers using more than 200 gpd may be implemented by the Board of Directors simultaneous with or subsequent to enactment of the mandatory stage on July 1. You can see your water use history and target to reduce 25% by visiting the NMWD website at nmwd.com/account_balance.php

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 Waterline and at nmwd.com.

New Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program

This program is available to eligible low-income customers and provides a credit on a two-month billing cycle of \$15 per bill or \$90 per year. A direct water customer who has a single-family residential account and is eligible for PG&E's income-based CARE program is eligible for the District's LIRA Program. Once approved the discount would apply to your first billing cycle after July 1, 2020. To request an application or for further information call our billing department at 415-897-4133 or visit the website at nmwd.com.

Tap Water Is Safe From Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Water served by NMWD to customers is purified using modern treatment techniques to remove pathogens, including bacteria and viruses. Our continuous monitoring ensures that it surpasses all state and federal regulations for health and safety. NMWD staff are working 24/7 to make sure that water is available to you at all times. As you make any preparations to deal with the risks of coronavirus, know that your tap remains a safe, reliable and affordable source of clean water. **Quick Fact** – It costs less than 60 cents to wash your hands 100 times for 20 seconds each.

Pay your bills online.

Visit onlinebiller.com/nmwd



New Water Storage Tank in Construction in Paradise Ranch Estates

A new tank is being constructed in Paradise Ranch Estates (PRE). The project includes the construction of a 125,000-gallon concrete water storage tank that will provide expanded water storage for improved emergency and fire flow capacity. The tank site historically had two wooden tanks, one of which was destroyed in the 1995 Mt. Vision Fire. The new tank will restore the storage lost when that tank was burned, plus add sufficient water storage to meet current fire flow storage requirements.

The new 125,000-gallon tank (4A) will also replace the capacity provided by the remaining wooden tank (4B), since that tank is approaching the end of its useful life span. Tank 4B will remain operational until construction of the new tank is complete, and will then be decommissioned and removed from the site. A construction contract was awarded in December 2019 and the new \$1.4M tank should be completed by November 2020.



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Water Smart Savings Program

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 nmwd.com.

Water Smart Home Survey

This free service includes thorough indoor and outdoor water efficiency checks.

Water Smart Landscape Rebate

Rebates for water-efficient landscape equipment, such as a new drip irrigation system replacing a spray system.

Cash for Grass Rebate

Cash for removing irrigated and maintained lawn, replacing it with low water use plants.

Clothes Washer Rebate

NMWD offers a rebate to customers when they purchase a qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer.

Rainwater Catchment Rebate

Rebate for collection of rainwater.

High Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Customers who replace an old water-guzzling toilet with a high-efficiency toilet may be eligible for a rebate.

**Water
Smart
Savings
Program**

Find out more at nmwd.com

