

# The Waterline

West Marin Service Area Newsletter | Volume 18 | Summer 2020



## Water Supply Update Summer 2020

Drew McIntyre, General Manager

Unprecedented salinity intrusion has occurred in two wells which North Marin Water District uses as sources of drinking water in the West Marin system.

These two wells, located near the former Coast Guard housing property in Point Reyes Station, have experienced periodic and seasonal salinity intrusion for many years. In 2015, NMWD completed permitting and construction of a well and pipeline that brings water from a different source, out of the reach of tides. This third well is situated approximately a mile and a half east of Point Reyes station adjacent to the Gallagher ranch.

Unfortunately, the third well is unable to produce enough water to meet 100% of the volume demands of our customers in the summer months and the salinity intrusion at the Coast Guard wells has continued to worsen, likely due in part to sea level rise. This year, under dry-year water conditions, we have seen the salt levels in the water produced from the Coast Guard wells rise to unprecedented levels. While there is no direct health concern from the salt for most people at this concentration, it does affect the taste. Customers that may be on sodium restricted diets should consult their physicians to see if the additional sodium is a concern for them.

Additionally, bromide, a component of the salt water that has increased, can also contribute to the formation of disinfection byproducts. We have taken every action available to keep disinfection byproducts as low as possible and continue to monitor their concentrations. If they rise to an unsafe level we



will, in consultation with the California Division of Drinking Water, communicate this to our customers.

In order correct the situation, North Marin Water District is actively working to construct additional sources of water that are not prone to salinity intrusion. The acquisitions of land, planning and permitting have been going on for two years. We hope to have this new source constructed and available for water supply in 2021. Emergency water conservation measures remain in place and reducing water use decreases our dependence on wells impacted by salinity intrusion.

More information about water quality can be found at <https://nmwd.com/your-water/water-quality>

If you have questions or concerns that are not addressed here, please call Pablo Ramudo, Water Quality Supervisor at 415-761-8924.

## Emergency Water Conservation Update

Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation Coordinator

A water shortage emergency was declared and Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 39) adopted in the West Marin Service Area pursuant to Water Right Order 95-17, triggered by dry year conditions with rainfall levels less than 28 inches (i.e. 24 inches) this past winter on Lagunitas Creek. Ordinance No. 39 mandates percentage reductions in water use and also prohibits waste and non-essential uses of water.

May 5 to June 30, customers were asked to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 15% compared to the consumption in 2013 (the most recent pre-drought normal year). West Marin customers

did a great job conserving during this period and the service area water use was down 21%. On July 1, Ordinance No. 39 required a mandatory 25% service area wide reduction in water use (also when compared to 2013). West Marin Service Area customers did a good job reducing water use by 15% compared to 2013 in July, but we are still below our mandated 25% reduction.

For more information on Ordinance No. 39, including the actual Ordinance and a summary of water use prohibitions, please visit <https://nmwd.com/water-shortage-emergency-declared-in-west-marin-service-area/>.

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## Water Conservation Update (continued)

You can also see your water use history by visiting our website at the following link:  
[nmwd.com/account/watersmart/](http://nmwd.com/account/watersmart/)

Although the mandatory 25% reduction applies to the West Marin service area as a whole (and not at individual customers at this time), we ask for your diligence to reduce water use as much as reasonably possible and to please fix all leaks. There is not a drop to waste! Reducing your water use also decreases our dependence on wells impacted by salinity intrusion and preserves water supply for fighting fires.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email our Water Conservation Department at [waterconserve@nmwd.com](mailto:waterconserve@nmwd.com) or call 415-761-8944.

## Water Use Monitoring and Leak Detection Device Pilot Program

The District is in the process of developing a pilot program for the shared cost purchase and use of water monitoring and leak detection devices.

These devices attach to your meter and relay real time water use data and leak alerts through your Wi-Fi. If you are interested in participating, please email your contact information and service address to [waterconserve@nmwd.com](mailto:waterconserve@nmwd.com).

This pilot program is available to West Marin Service Area customers only.



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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](http://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](http://nmwd.com)

