

# The Waterline



**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

West Marin Service Area Newsletter | Issue 19

## Water Supply Update Spring 2021

Drew McIntyre, General Manager

Water supplied by North Marin Water District (NMWD) to our West Marin customers is diverted from various 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, 2021 totals just under 21 inches and dry year conditions continue on Lagunitas Creek. This is the first time there have been two consecutive dry years since Water Right Order 95-17 was adopted by the SWRCB in October 1995 and 2014 was the only other previous single dry year condition. Pursuant to the order, Park Gage Dry Year Lagunitas Creek flows are currently being maintained by Marin Municipal Water District at the regulated threshold of 10 cfs (cubic feet per second) and will drop to 6 cfs on June 16. A public hearing was held last year 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 (No. 39).

The water shortage emergency condition remains in effect and Ordinance 39 has been revised to reflect current conditions for 2021. Until June 30, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce



water consumption by 15% (Stage 1) when compared to the corresponding billing period in 2013 (the most recent pre-drought normal year). For a second year in a row, beginning on July 1, a mandatory 25% reduction in water use (Stage 2) 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 and non-essential use 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 residential customers using more than 200 gpd takes effect with enactment of the mandatory Stage 2 restrictions from July 1 through November 1. You can see your water use history and target to reduce 25% by visiting the NMWD website at [nmwd.com](http://nmwd.com).

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

## Increased Salinity Levels

Pablo Ramudo, Water Quality Supervisor

NMWD is committed not only to serving water to customers that meets or surpasses all state and federal standards for quality, but also tastes good. Significant investments are being made for the permitting and construction of a new source well that is not vulnerable to salinity intrusion and is capable of meeting the production demands of the system.

Unfortunately, due to permitting delays beyond our control this new source well will not be available for use this Summer when salt levels are expected to increase again. Since a portion of NMWD's customers with severe sodium restrictions may again find it necessary to use alternative sources of water, NMWD is planning to provide a source of low saline water via a filling station. The target threshold to activate a filling station will be when salinity reaches a concentration of 115 mg/L. This threshold represents 10% of the recommended daily intake value for sodium presented

by the FDA dietary guidelines. The filling station facilities will be located near our treatment facilities at the former Coast Guard Housing Property in downtown Point Reyes Station.



Look for more related information on our website at [nmwd.com](http://nmwd.com) in the coming months.

## Water Use Monitoring and Leak Detection Device Pilot Program

Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation Coordinator

The District is continuing the offering of a pilot program for the shared cost purchase and use of a water monitoring and leak detection device called Flume. 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), and staff can provide you with the website link for the shared cost purchase.

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



## Pay your bills online.

Visit [onlinebiller.com/nmwd](http://onlinebiller.com/nmwd)



## Drought is here. Save water.

Summary of water waste and non-essential use prohibitions in effect

- Permitting water to escape down a gutter, ditch or other surface drain.
- Failure to repair a controllable leak of water within a reasonable time.
- Washing down exterior paved areas.
- Refilling a swimming pool drained after May 5, 2020 or initial filling of a swimming pool for which an application for a building permit was made after May 5, 2020.
- Washing privately-owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats except from a bucket and hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle for a quick rinse.
- Watering of any lawn, garden, landscape area. Overhead sprinkler irrigation can be used if the customer maintains an overall 25% reduction in water use when compared to the same billing period in 2013.
- Landscape watering beyond the hours of 7:00 PM and 9:00 AM of the next day and more than 3 days per week for drip irrigation and 2 days per week for overhead sprinkler irrigation.
- Use of potable water for dust control at construction sites.
- Non-residential use in excess of 25% less than the amount used by the customer during the corresponding billing period in 2013.



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

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## Water Smart Savings Program

Drought is here. Save water. North Marin Water District wants to help customers use water efficiently in this continuing drought period. 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 during this drought. 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. Virtual or phone consultations offered at this time.

### Water Smart Landscape Rebate

Rebates available for water efficient landscape equipment, such as a new drip irrigation system replacing a spray system or a rain shut off device.

### Pool Cover Rebate

Rebate available for qualified pool cover purchase and installation.

### Cash for Grass Rebate

Get cash for removing irrigated and maintained lawn and replacing it with low water use plants. Pre-qualification is required.

### High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate

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

### Rainwater Catchment Rebate

Rebate for collection and storage 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.

### Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebate for weather-based irrigation controllers that use weather data and site information such as plant type and sprinkler system output to automatically adjust watering times and frequency.

Save up to  
\$90 a year

## Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program

Julie Blue, Auditor/Controller

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 next billing cycle.

To request an application or for further information call our billing department at 415-897-4133 or visit the website at [nmwd.com/lira](http://nmwd.com/lira).