

Annual Water/Utilities Report for 2014

Water Use and Drought

Although we have had rain, it will take much more to make up the deficit in water resources that has developed over the past several years. The California State Dept. of Water Resources reports that although we have had several storms in California in the last few months it will take much more rain or snow to overcome the water deficit that developed over the last four years. Therefore water conservation is still extremely important.

Emergency conservation regulations were approved in California on July 15, 2014. These measures will allow residents in violation to be fined up to \$500 per day. The following rules were put into effect related to garden and home use of water because in some parts of California, 50% or more of the water used goes onto lawns and other outdoor landscaping, according to state officials.

The new regulations in effect for 270 days starting in August, 2014 included:

- Hosing down driveways is prohibited.
- Watering outdoors that produces excess runoff is in violation of the new regulations.
- Californians may use a hose to wash their cars only if using a shut-off nozzle.
- Water cannot be added to decorative water features in landscaping unless the system utilizes a recirculating system.

Water suppliers throughout the state are required to make these outdoor irrigation restrictions mandatory. They also were required to report water use monthly starting Aug. 15, 2014.

In addition to these restrictions, the SoCal WaterSmart 2014-2015 commenced on June 1, 2014 and ends on June 30, 2015 for Metropolitan Water District's residential water customers. Rebates encourage residents to install or change to water friendly appliances and toilets. Rebates offered by local water agencies are available through the "Estimate My Rebate" tool at <http://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/qualifyingproduct>.

- Effective June 1, 2014, rebate incentives are being enhanced for High Efficiency Toilets with a **1.28 gallons per flush or lower to \$100**.
- Effective May 14, 2014, **turf removal rebates** are being offered starting at **\$2.00 per square foot**.
- Effective October 15, 2013, rebates are being offered for **rain barrels and soil moisture sensor systems**. These are still in effect. **Rain barrel rebates are \$75**. Collecting and re-using rainwater from gutters and downspouts for lawns and gardens minimizes the amount of water flowing into your storm drains, sewer systems and local waterways.

Plants and microbes prefer rainwater because it is naturally free of salt and chlorine, fluorides and other chemicals.

- **Rotating sprinkler heads:** These heads apply water more slowly and uniformly to prevent over-watering, encourage healthy plant growth and use 20% less water than conventional spray heads. **Rebates start at \$4/nozzle; minimum quantity is 15 nozzles.**
- Rebates for appliances such as washers are in effect. Check with utilities and <http://www.bewaterwise.com> or <http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/qualifyingproduct> for information on models available for rebates and ways to obtain rebates before buying.

Tehachapi renewable transmission project

Activity that you may have seen or the helicopters you may have heard working recently along the crest of the Puente Hills is associated with completion of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project. Approximately 173 miles of transmission lines will carry renewable electrical power generated by existing and future wind farms located in the Tehachapi mountain areas of Kern County, into Los Angeles County along the 605 Freeway, then east to an existing substation in Ontario. It could provide 4,500 megawatts of power for 3 million homes when completed. State laws require Southern California Edison to provide at least 33% of its power service from renewable sources by 2020. Hacienda Heights is located in Segment 8 of this project.

Transmission lines and warning balls are being placed in the Hacienda Heights area currently using a small helicopter and project personnel.