

Water/Utilities Report for Sept. 15, 2013

Submitted by: Joan Licari

WATER:

The new water-saving regulations mandated by the State of California have been implemented by the San Gabriel Valley Water Company and Suburban Water Co.

All water utilities under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission have been ordered to notify customers of the State Water Board's restrictions and fines for violations of the Board's regulations. The emergency regulations call on all water users to sharply cut back on outdoor water use in response to severe drought conditions in California and Governor Brown's call for Californians to reduce water usage by 20 percent. Every resident of the state is responsible for complying with these regulations and your cooperation is needed to conserve precious drinking water. The State Water Board has determined that the following outdoor water use activities by San Gabriel Valley Water Company's customers are not allowed:

- While watering outdoor landscaping in a way that causes water to “runoff“ onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
- Washing a vehicle with a hose without a “shut off” nozzle or other device that will immediately stop the flow when not in use.
- Using drinking water to wash down sidewalks or driveways.
- Using drinking water in a fountain or other decorative outdoor water feature in which water is not recirculated.

Violation of any of these four prohibited or restricted water use activities may be punished by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each day in which the violation occurs. Please note that such fines can be assessed by local law enforcement authorities and the companies do not receive money from the fines.

The San Gabriel Valley Water Company has posted the following warning to its customers:

- **BE ALERT FOR PERSONS POSING AS WATER COMPANY EMPLOYEES TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO YOUR HOME. WATER COMPANY EMPLOYEES CARRY COLOR PHOTO ID CARDS WHICH THEY WILL SHOW YOU UPON REQUEST. TO CONFIRM THE IDENTITY OF AN EMPLOYEE, PLEASE CALL 626-448-6183.**

San Gabriel Valley Water Company will not call customers to request bank account information. Customers are only asked for bank account information when they contact San Gabriel Valley Water Company and request setting up AutoPay service. Please do not give personal information to any unknown caller.

Utilities:

You may have been receiving numerous calls from companies referring to a tax program for home owners to purchase a solar system. There is a tax credit system in place in California.

Information below is from: <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/consumers/taxcredits.php>

“Solar consumers are eligible for federal tax incentives for the purchase and installation of eligible solar systems, including both solar photovoltaics (PV) and solar hot water (solar thermal) systems, as well as other renewable energy investments.

Solar tax credits were enacted in 2008 as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, which included \$18 billion in incentives for clean and renewable energy technologies, as well as for energy efficiency improvements. The 2008 legislation extended the solar investment tax credit (ITC) through December 31, 2016 and made other modifications to the tax credits. The solar ITC offers:

- A federal investment tax credit for both residential and commercial consumers is available for both photovoltaics and solar water heating systems.
- A consumer must have a federal tax liability to take advantage of the solar investment tax credit.
- As of 2009, the solar ITC for residential system owners is 30% of the total system cost.
- The IRS current federal tax form for the Investment Credits is Form 3468 is available at www.irs.gov/formspubs.
- Business owned systems may also be eligible for MACRS 5-year Accelerated Depreciation using IRS federal form 4562 available at www.irs.gov/formspubs. For more info on commercial tax benefits please contact your tax preparer or a tax attorney.
- The solar system owner has the ability to take advantage of the solar tax credit. Entities without a federal tax liability sometimes use third-party system owner arrangements to install solar since a third-party can take advantage of the solar investment tax credit, passing along some savings to the solar system host customer.
- Bonus Depreciation was expanded to 100% for solar projects placed in service in 2011, and 50% for projects placed in service in 2012. "Bonus Depreciation" means acceleration of the otherwise applicable depreciation (not "more" depreciation, but "sooner" depreciation). 100% Bonus Depreciation means that the whole project's applicable tax depreciation is accelerated to 2011.”

(<http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/consumers/taxcredits.php>)