

# **The Soquel Creek Water District**

## **Water Use Efficiency Requirements for Single-Family Lots**

### **PURPOSE**

Water resources in our area are limited. The Soquel Creek Water District (SCWD) relies entirely on local groundwater aquifers to provide water for approximately 45,000 people in the mid-county region. Currently, more water is being pumped out of the aquifers than is being replaced by natural precipitation. Water availability and quality can be affected by overpumping. Water use efficiency requirements were developed to protect our groundwater supplies from over pumping and to promote efficient usage of our limited water resources.

### **WHO MUST COMPLY?**

All persons requesting water service for a new single-family home in the SCWD service area must meet the requirements in this document. (Note that all development other than single-family lots must complete more comprehensive documentation.) Existing customers are exempt unless they are requesting an increase in meter size or an additional meter.

The SCWD will consider, and may allow, substituting of well-designed landscape alternatives or innovations that may equally reduce water consumption. All written explanations, variances, substitutions, alternatives or innovations must be reviewed and approved by the SCWD before water service is granted.

### **WHAT IS REQUIRED and WHEN?**

The landscaping and indoor requirements are outlined below. The responsible party must agree to the requirements as a condition of obtaining water service from the SCWD.

#### **Landscaping**

- Lawn is limited to no more than 25% of the landscaped area, and may not be used in areas less than 8 feet wide or on slopes more than 15%.
- Turf grass (lawn) must be a water-conserving species, such as hard fescue.
- High water use plants may be planted in no more than 10% of the non-turf landscape area. The remaining landscape must be planted with low and moderate water-use plants.
- Spray irrigation shall not be used in plantings less than 5 feet wide (at the narrowest point).
- All irrigation should be designed to avoid runoff and over-spray.
- Irrigation controllers should have multiple programming capabilities, rain sensing devices, and anti-drain check valves.

- Plants having similar water requirements should be grouped together in distinct hydrozones.
- Plants that require different amounts of water should be irrigated by separate irrigation circuits.
- Soil conditioning should include 6 cubic yards of organic amendment for each 1,000 square feet of topsoil to help retain soil moisture.
- One to three inches of mulch should be added in non-turf areas to minimize evaporation.

### **Indoor**

- All installed toilets use on average 1.28 gallons per flush or less.
- All kitchen faucets use a maximum of 2.2 gallons per minute at 80 pounds per square inch (psi)
- All installed lavatory faucets use a maximum of 2.2 gallons per minute at 80 psi.
- All installed showerheads use a maximum of 2.5 gallons per minute at 80 psi.
- All newly purchased installed clothes washing machines are EPA Energy Star certified with a water factor of 8.5 or less. (Note - a water factor refers to how many gallons of water are needed per cubic foot of wash load per cycle. The lower the water factor the more water efficient the clothes washing machine.)

### **REBATES**

Please investigate the various rebates that SCWD and PGE offer for water and energy efficient devices for new homes.

### **TO GET MORE INFORMATION**

Call the Soquel Creek Water District at (831) 475-8501 ext. 144.