

What's On Tap

AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT



CONSERVATION *plus* ... We're Taking it Up a Notch

YOU'LL BE HEARING A LOT FROM US this summer as we prepare to launch ConservationPlus, a year-round, long-term water savings program.

This program is one action the District is taking to protect our only water source while we search for an additional supply to meet our community's needs. The District gets all of our water from the underground basin and each year we are using more water than is naturally recharged through rainfall. Seawater contamination is being detected at our coastline and we need to reduce our water use to reduce the risk of it moving inland and contaminating our drinking water wells. Our economy, our health and our quality of life all depend on a reliable, safe source of water, so we're asking the community to work together to reduce water consumption.

What does this mean? Beginning in early 2015, residential customers will have a water budget of 75 gallons per person, per day (or 85 gallons a day for people who live alone). The amount is intended to allow typical indoor water use with high-efficiency fixtures installed, and allows for some outdoor watering of drought-tolerant landscapes. The program requires commercial customers to adopt a set of water-efficient tools and behaviors. There will be financial penalties for non-compliance with the requirements.

Why wait?! You can do many things now to save water. Schedule a free water-wise house call and conservation goodies like faucet aerators, leak detectors, and low-flow showerheads. Take another step forward with generous rebates for things like clothes washers, high-efficiency toilets and turf replacement with water-wise landscaping.

The District's new Conservation Plus Program Is a year-round approach to increase water conservation.

what's next?

Over the next few months, we'll be contacting all customers with more details about our ConservationPlus program and to confirm the number of people in each home. We'll also offer assistance to help you meet the program requirements. We're committed to supporting our customers through this transition.



Customer Marilee Weston has water wise landscaping at her home. Over 50% of the District's residential customers use water efficiently indoors and outdoors and will already be in compliance with the new ConservationPlus program when it is launched in early 2015.

Got Groundwater? a community conversation - come join us

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT is not the only user who pumps water from our mid-county aquifers. To explore the role of private wells and other users in protecting our groundwater, we are partnering with Central Water District and the County of Santa Cruz to initiate a community conversation.

A new stakeholder committee includes private well pumpers and other community stakeholders within the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Basin. The role and purpose of this committee is to:

- Broaden the engagement with groundwater basin users to promote open and effective communication
- Explore issues including efficient water use, groundwater hydrology, protection of groundwater quality, groundwater rights and sustainability
- Advise in the development of a set of recommendations for the County, the District, and Central Water District on groundwater basin protection and management strategies for all basin



Over 80 people attended the kick-off meeting held on May 13, 2014. Attendees included private well owners, customers from Soquel Creek Water District and Central Water District and other interested individuals.

users in addressing mid-county water issues.

There will be four more through early 2015. All meetings are open to the public and will be held at Soquel Congregational Church at 4951 Soquel Drive, Soquel from 7 -9 PM. The next two meetings will be:

July 8 – Groundwater Data in Mid-County Area

September 9 – California Water Law

For more info: www.soquelcreekwater.org/GWSAC

our water waste ordinance is always in effect!

- Only water your yard in the mornings or evenings (between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.)
- Keep irrigation on planted areas; don't spray or allow run-off onto hard surfaces
- Always use an automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose (these are free to customers!)
- Use a broom to clean hard surfaces instead of a hose
- Fix leaks right away

New Requirements for businesses beginning in June 2014

- Local restaurants can only serve water upon request
- Hotels and motels must provide guests an option to re-use sheets and towels

Our Flushing Program...reduced but still necessary

WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF questions lately about why you sometimes see water flowing in the street near District crews. Although the District is doing its part to reduce water waste, our staff at times may need to use water to support our operations and to ensure safe and reliable water to our customers. Some of these instances include:



Troy Mumm, one of our District's Construction and Maintenance Workers, fixing a broken water main. Part of the process includes flushing the water main to ensure the pipe is clean and ready to distribute water to our customers.

When a water main breaks, the leak is throttled but not turned off completely for the repair. Water pressure must be maintained to prevent contaminants entering the main and impacting water supplies. After the main break is repaired, the main is thoroughly flushed to remove contaminants and sediment.

After a new main is installed or after a main break causes a loss of pressure, State law requires the main to be disinfected. This process requires thorough flushing of the main to remove super-chlorinated water.

While the District has suspended its routine water main flushing program to save water, some flushing is absolutely necessary. If a deterioration of water quality is detected, the mains in the area will be flushed.

There are times when, for health and safety reasons, the District must use water to flush a water main or purge a production well. We will try to limit these uses as much as possible.

Dead-end water mains are particularly vulnerable to contamination because water located at the end of a dead-end main is not continually circulated and bacterial and other growth can occur. Thus, dead-end water mains are flushed periodically.

When new water mains are installed, fire hydrants are required to be flow-tested. Flow test data is used by water service planners and the local fire districts to ensure these water mains will provide enough water in emergencies.

hexavalent chromium Full scale treatment of hexavalent chromium will begin at the San Andreas Well in July. This pilot system will treat water to below the newly released state limit of 10 parts per billion and will be in place until a permanent facility is constructed.

See Water Waste?
Call 475-8500 or email
savewater@soquelcreekwater.org

What's On Tap is an in-house publication printed quarterly for the customers of our District. Forward your comments to the editor at P.O. Box 1550, Capitola, CA 95010.

2013 Water Quality Report is now available

www.soquelcreekwater.org/
waterqualityreports/
2013wqr.pdf



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New Emergency Water Rates Go Into Effect July 1

BEGINNING JULY 1, the District will implement Emergency Water Shortage Rates. Water bills for low and average water-using customers will likely increase \$2 to \$7 a month. High water users may experience bill increases of \$20 or more a month.

The rate increase is a response to water cutbacks and the District's need to maintain operating revenue. As customers conserve more water to ensure the future of our

water supply, the District generates less revenue. However, practically none of our operational costs decrease. We still must maintain our infrastructure and customer service to deliver clean, safe and reliable water to our customers.

Emergency Water Rates will appear on your bill beginning in August for water consumed in July.



SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

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Email: custserv@soquelcreekwater.org

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other ways to connect with us!



Single Family Residential

	<u>Current</u>	<u>July 1</u>
Tier 1 (1-3 units*)	\$3.80/unit	\$4.53/unit
Tier 2 (4-7 units*)	\$6.40/unit	\$7.63/unit
Tier 3 (8-15 units*)	\$9.75/unit	\$11.62/unit
Tier 4 (16+ units*)	\$14.50/unit	\$17.28/unit

Multi Family Residential

	<u>Current</u>	<u>July 1</u>
Tier 1 (1-2 units*)	\$5.30/unit	\$6.32/unit
Tier 2 (3-5 units*)	\$6.55/unit	\$7.81/unit
Tier 3 (6-10 units*)	\$7.80/unit	\$9.30/unit
Tier 4 (11+ units*)	\$9.10/unit	\$10.85/unit

Non-Domestic

	<u>Current</u>	<u>July 1</u>
	\$6.47/unit	\$7.71/unit

*1 unit = 748 gallons

Our Board of Directors meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the District office, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to everyone and comments from the public are heard at each meeting.