

## Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter

### April 2012



*Please note that this month's water bills were estimated due to the amount of snow we received during the meter read period. Our billing system averages your water usage over the last year. Please contact our office if you have any concerns about your bill.*

### Water System Improvement Project (WSIP) The reservoir is almost empty!

We began the process of draining the reservoir on March 15, 2012. **It's been a slow process, but the reservoir will probably be empty within the next week or so.** We are treating water directly from the ditch that brings water down from our diversions. Due to the swings in raw water quality, we installed equipment that helped us stabilize our treatment process. However, due to the expense of the equipment, it could only be installed on one of our treatment plants.

### A Stage 1 Water Emergency Alert will be declared soon!

Postcards will be mailed out to all Grizzly Flats Post Office boxes and those on the Grizzly mail route. If you live out of town or don't receive your mail in Grizzly Flats, please watch for our postings at the Grizzly Flats Post Office or on our website. We expect to declare the Stage 1 within the next week or two.

A Stage 1 asks all customers to:

- Conserve 10% to 20% of your daily use. You can find your current usage at the bottom of your water statement under "Average Usage in Gallons Per Day".
- Water lawns, gardens and landscapes between the hours of 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM. Watering shall not exceed 2 hours per water period per customer.
- No washing driveways, parking areas, decking or other paved areas with GFCSD water unless for the purpose of renovation, construction or painting.
- GFCSD potable water shall not be used for dust control, earthwork or road construction.

Citing and disconnect procedures for customers who, within a calendar year, fail to comply with these water emergency response measures as defined in the District's Ordinance 88-1, section 7-05 A-G shall be as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Written warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: \$50.00 fine
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: \$100.00 fine
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Termination of Service (\$250.00 fee)

**We are asking all GFCSD customers to delay planting gardens, flowers and other landscapes (lawns, shrubbery, trees, ponds, etc.) until after the reservoir project is done. Weather permitting; we hope the project will be complete by mid to late June.** If everyone can conserve and keep water demands lower than normal, we hope to avoid declaring higher conservation stages. We will monitor customers' demand for water compared to our inflows. If we can't keep up with demands, we will have to declare a Stage 2. If treatment still can't keep up, the Board of Directors will consider declaring a Stage 3.

### If you need information on what is required under each Water Conservation Stage you can:

- a). Go to our website ([www.grizzlyflatscsd.com](http://www.grizzlyflatscsd.com)), click on the "Customer Info" tab at the top of the page, then click on "Water Shortages and Emergency Response Stages".
- b). Check the Grizzly Flats Post Office! The Stages will be posted in the glass case that hangs on the wall inside the post office (opposite wall from the mailboxes).
- d). Visit the GFCSD Office at 4765 Sciaroni Rd (about ½ mile from the Post Office). We are open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and have the information available for all customers.

## How can you reduce your water usage?

Under a Stage 1, customers are asked to reduce their average daily water usage by 10% to 20%. **You can find your current usage at the bottom of your last water statement under “Average Usage in Gallons per Day”.** Take your usage and multiply by either 10% or 20% to find the number of gallons you need to cut from your daily usage.

Examples (all numbers are in gallons per day):

Average Usage	10% reduction	20% reduction
100	10	20
150	15	30
200	20	40
250	25	50
300	30	60
350	35	70

**Not sure how to reduce your usage? It’s simple really, before you turn on the tap, think of ways you can use less water to accomplish the same purpose.**

### In the kitchen-

- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet waiting for cold water.
- Garbage disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste.
- Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of load you are washing.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don’t throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant or pet’s water dish!
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using your microwave.
- Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.

### In the bathroom-

- Turn off the water while you shave or brush your teeth and you can save more than 100 gallons a week (or 15-20 gallons per day).
- If you keep your showers under 5 minutes, you’ll save up to 1000 gallons a month (or 33 gallons per day)!

- Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version. You could save up to 750 gallons per month (or 25 gallons per day).
- If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure they do not interfere with operating parts.

### Other ideas around the house-

- When you clean your fish tank, give the water to your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 225 gallons per month!
- While waiting for the water to warm up, collect the running water for watering plants or animals.

For more ideas, visit our website and click on the link to “Water Use It Wisely” on the right side of our home page!

## Have you visited the GFCS D website yet?

[www.grizzlyflatscsd.com](http://www.grizzlyflatscsd.com)

You may have noticed a few references to it in this newsletter. On our home page you can find:

- The “News & Events” section. We update it regularly with announcements, community interest items, and informative links. You can also find our office hours, our on-call pager number, our next scheduled board meeting and the current weather!
- Other pages include: Customer information such as how to read your water statement, information about our Board of Directors, information about your water system and much more!
- **This week we posted a link to a story in the Mountain Democrat (the Placerville newspaper) about Foresthill P.U.D.** They are a small water district very similar to GFCS D. The article looks at the issues they are facing and how their district is struggling to survive. Many of their issues are very similar to ours including their need to find ways to replace an aging water system and their reliance on a small customer base to generate enough income to pay for their operating expenses. **It gives a lot of insight into a small district and is very interesting reading for those who are interested.**

We are still in the process of getting the most up-to-date information posted on the website...but we hope it can be used as a resource for our community!