

## Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter

### May 2012



#### Water System Improvement Project (WSIP)

First, here's a little history: GFCSD obtained a low-interest loan/grant from USDA-Rural Development in the amount of \$1,415,000 (approx. 67% loan, 33% grants). The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project was completed last fall with the installation of new water lines that improved our system's reliability and six new fire hydrants. Phase 2 will include installation of a liner in our raw water reservoir and re-compaction of part of the berm.

We have spent the last few weeks draining the reservoir and preparing for construction. The liner and berm work will allow us to use more of the water stored in the reservoir. The liner will also stop water leakage. **It's been estimated that the reservoir leaks approximately 35 acre feet (or 11 million gallons) of water per year!**

**We expect to start construction April 30, 2012.** If all goes according to schedule, the project should be substantially complete by mid to late June.

**It's also important to note that all of these improvements have been done without any increase to the rates you pay!** The loan will be paid with an unused portion of the Standby Charge which is paid by every parcel within the District (see the \$48 on your property tax bill). **That \$48 has remained unchanged since 1990.**

#### A Stage 2 Water Emergency Alert may be declared soon!

We are currently treating about 80,000 to 90,000 gallons of water per day. When customer demand exceeds 100,000 gallons per day, we will declare a Stage 2. **A Stage 2 is mandatory for all customers!**

Stage 2 Postcards will be mailed out to all Grizzly Flats Post Office boxes and those on the mail route. Notices will also be posted at the Grizzly Flats Post Office and on our website.

A Stage 2 requires all customers to:

- **Conserve 20% to 30% of your daily use.**

- **Water existing lawns, gardens and landscapes between the hours of 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM.** Watering shall not exceed 1 hour. Drip systems shall also observe the watering hours.
- **GFCSD potable water shall not be used for the planting of new gardens, lawns or landscapes.**
- **Ponds, fountains and swimming pools shall not be filled GFCSD potable (drinking) water.**
- **No washing driveways, parking areas, decking or other paved areas with potable 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 fail to comply with water emergency response measures 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)

**If everyone can conserve and keep water demands lower than normal, we hope to avoid declaring a Stage 3.** Under a Stage 3, no outside watering is allowed and customers are required to conserve 30% to 50% of their daily average water usage.

**If you need more information you can:**

- Go to our website ([www.grizzlyflatscsd.com](http://www.grizzlyflatscsd.com)),
- Check the Grizzly Flats Post Office bulletin board, or
- Contact us in person, by phone or by email!

We are open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and have information available for all customers.

#### **How much do I need to reduce?**

Under a Stage 2, customers will be asked to reduce their average daily water usage by 20% to 30%.

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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 20% or 30% to find the number of gallons you need reduce.

#### Examples (all numbers are in gallons per day):

Average Usage (from water bill)	20% reduction	30% reduction
100	20	30
150	30	45
200	40	60
250	50	75
300	60	90

### Why do we have to conserve water?

Your water comes from creeks above Grizzly Flats. The water flows down a pipeline ("Eagle Ditch") and feeds into the raw water reservoir. The water is pulled from the reservoir as needed and processed through one of two water treatment plants and distributed into the system for your use.

While the reservoir is empty, we are treating water directly from the pipeline. The quality of the water coming from the pipeline is different from what's in the reservoir. In order to properly treat that water, we had to install specialized equipment. Unfortunately, due to the cost of the equipment, we were only able to install it on one treatment plant.

Therefore....it is ESSENTIAL that everyone in the community does their part to reduce their water usage!

### Simple ways to reduce your water use....

*Find a use for the water you usually let flow down the drain and fix leaks!*

#### Facts on leaks:

- Household leaks can account for 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year.
- A good method to check for leaks is to check your water usage listed on your monthly water bill. **It's likely that a family of 4 has a serious leak if its water use exceeds 300 gallons per day.**
- One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Be sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.
- **A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.** A home with WaterSense labeled toilets could use that same amount of water to flush for 6 months!

#### Bathrooms:

- **If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting 200 gallons of water or more every day!** The most common cause is a faulty flapper, which is relatively easy and inexpensive to replace.
- A showerhead leaking 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year!
- **Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.**
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 25 gallons per month. **Turning off the water while shaving can save 300 gallons per month.**

#### Kitchens:

- For cold drinks, keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap.
- **Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap. Then use the water in the pan to water your houseplants.**
- When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
- Designate 1 glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This cuts down on dishes to wash!
- **Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost overnight in the fridge.**
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Install water-saving aerators on all faucets.
- Leftover ice in your cup? Don't throw it down the drain; drop it in a houseplant or your pet's water bowl.

#### Outside:

- **Put off planting gardens, landscapes, lawns or anything else that may require large amounts of water until after the reservoir is lined and refilled.**
- Only plant gardens if you have an alternate way of watering...such as rain collection barrels.
- Use drip irrigation for your plants and gardens. Water is applied directly to the roots where it's needed. But, if a Stage 3 is declared, drip systems are not exempt.
- An irrigation system should be checked each spring to make sure it was not damaged during the winter. **A drip system with a leak 1/32<sup>nd</sup> of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.** Also, check your garden hoses for leaks. Ensure they have a tight connection to the spigot and use pipe tape and a wrench if necessary.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalks and save water every time.
- Avoid recreational toys that require a constant flow of water.

**Report broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers or other water waste to the property owner or GFCSd!**