

Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter July 2014



Water Conservation and Our Water Supply

How is the water supply? There are many factors that we look at....we are excited to have a full reservoir that has been spilling since we installed the reservoir liner in 2012, but the water levels at our diversions (our water source) have begun to decrease with the hot temperatures we've seen this month. Water flows don't usually pick up until late October, so we still have a ways to go to make it through the summer. If customer demand for water is more than the flows coming in, the water level in the reservoir will start to decrease, and we will declare a Stage 1 Water Emergency asking all customers to conserve up to 20%.

On average, every American uses 60 gallons of water every day! Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

We are also concerned about the recent actions taken by the State Water Resources Control Board. They issued a letter on May 27, 2014 stopping some diversions by water districts with post-1914 water rights. That notice included a warning to our District that said: "Records show you divert water under a riparian or pre-1914 water right. As such, it is important that you conserve water due to declining supplies. **If current conditions persist, the State Water Board may curtail some pre-1914 and riparian water rights in the near future.**"

This notice caused El Dorado Irrigation District to decrease its diversions for the Outingdale area. Residences there are limited to 68 gallons per day per person. We could see similar requirements if the State chooses to move forward with its curtailment of pre-1914 water right diversions. It is an issue we are watching carefully!

Our water production has been steadily climbing as we move into the summer months. **Customer demand has been between 96,000 and 140,000 gallons per day.** Please remember that we are in a drought and you need to be smart about how you use your water. Fix those water leaks! The drips from your faucets or showerhead or that running toilet can waste hundreds of gallons of water! Don't let hoses run. Do what you can to reduce your water waste.

The Governor of California declared a drought emergency on January 17, 2014. **As part of that declaration, the Governor asked that all Californians reduce their water usage by 20%. You are being asked to do your part for the safety of our State's water supply.** You can visit the "Save our Water" Campaign – www.saveourh2o.org – for practical advice on how to reduce water consumption.

The average household leaks over 10,000 gallons of water per year! The worst offender is often a leaky toilet, which can leak 20-30 gallons per day. Get out the wrench and change the washers on your sinks and showers. Keeping your existing equipment well maintained is probably the easiest and cheapest way to save water.

Annual Consumer Confidence Report

GFCSD's annual Consumer Confidence Report is now available on our website under the "Customer Info" tab. The direct link is: http://grizzlyflatscsd.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/CCR_GRIZ_20131.pdf

The report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have very stringent regulations and requirements that our water system must meet. **We are proud to say we had no violations in 2013.**

Although the report can be daunting; we hope you take a few minutes to review it. If you missed it, the report can be found on our website under the "Customer Info" tab, or call our office and we will be happy to provide you a printed copy.

We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses!

2014/2015 Budget

The Grizzly Flats CSD Board is reviewing the annual budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. The proposed budget will go before the Board of Directors for approval at our regular meeting on July 11, 2014. GFCSD's staff has worked hard to reduce expenses and use available resources when problems arise.

We haven't raised water rates since 2011, but our budget has had a negative net income for two years in a row now. We collect penalties that offset some of that, but the District may need to consider a small rate increase within the next year or two. The District follows the strict guidelines of the Proposition 218 process when adjusting water rates. Customers will be notified of any proposed rate changes and will be given the opportunity to participate in the process at public meetings before any final decisions are made. It's a tough decision to increase water rates, but it is important that our water district is properly funded and can continue to operate and provide safe, clean, reliable water to our community now and in the future!

Think of ways to capture water that normally goes down your drain.....when cleaning out fish tanks; give the nutrient-rich water to your plants. Have a bucket in your shower to capture the water while you wait for the water to warm up. Keep a jug of water in your fridge for drinking instead of turning on the faucet each time someone in your home wants a drink.

Reminders for our Customers

Payments are due on the 15th of each month. If your account is not past due, you are provided a 5 day grace period, but your payment must be in our office by the 21st!

A note to those customers who use your bank's online bill pay service - be sure to give your bank

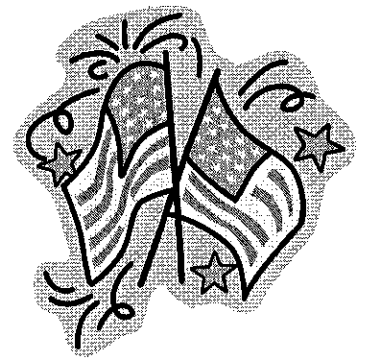
time to process your payment. Once you enter the information online, your bank prints and mails us a paper check. Keep in mind that it takes time for us to receive it, and if we don't receive it by the due date, we must apply a late charge. **Thank you!**

Fax, Copy and Notary Services

Our office offers services such as faxing, copying and notary services to the public. We charge a nominal fee to cover our costs (paper, copies, toner, phone calls, etc.). Copies are 15¢ per page. Faxes are \$1.00 for the first page and 15¢ for each additional page and Notary services are \$10 per signature. Office hours are 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday – Friday. Please call ahead so we can be sure our Notary will be in the office!

Board Meetings

The public is welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:00 AM at the District office. The agenda for the meetings are posted 3 days before the meeting at the Post Office, our District office, and on our website.



Just a note: People occasionally ask why our meetings aren't held on weekends or evenings. Here are just a few reasons:

- *Select GFCSD staff is required to attend all meetings. In order to avoid overtime and other expenses, meetings are held during the staff's working hours.*
- *Meetings in the past were held in the evenings and/or weekends and public attendance didn't increase.*
- *Board members are not compensated for attending meetings. We have board members who have jobs outside of the Grizzly Flats area. We try to accommodate them so as not to affect their work schedules and pay checks!*

Agendas and minutes for all of our meetings are available on our website!