

Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter May 2015

INFORMATION ON OUR WATER SUPPLY

Right now, our reservoir is full, but we do expect to see our water source produce limited water this year due to the dry winter we had. With very little snow pack and very dry conditions, we will need all our customers to conserve water! Keep in mind, that our reservoir only holds 31 acre feet of water. That is about 3 months' worth of water with conservation. **The April 1, 2015 measurement of the state's snowpack showed it was just 5% of average.** That was the lowest snowpack ever recorded for our state! We rely on that snowpack for our water supply. GFCSD's Drought Stages are connected to the height of our reservoir. Those may be implemented if the reservoir stops spilling this year. Each stage calls for a higher conservation: **State 1 (Alert): 10% - 20%, Stage 2 (Emergency): 20% - 30%, and Stage 3 (Critical): 30%-50%**

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION

For the first time in state history, Governor Brown has declared mandatory water reductions for all California residents. The State Water Resources Control Board has put together proposed Emergency Regulations. They plan to adopt them at their meeting, scheduled for May 5-6, 2015. The current version states "Smaller water suppliers (that's us) will be required to achieve a 25% conservation standard or restrict outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week."

MANDATORY ACTIONS BY WATER USERS

All water users must abide by the following:

- Do not apply potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, private and public walkways, or roadways;
- Do not use a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
- Do not water outside landscapes within 48 hours of a rain or snow event;
- Do not apply potable water to driveways, sidewalks, decks, or any other hard surfaces; and
- Do not use potable water in fountains or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.

**potable water refers to the water GFCSD treats and distributes to customers. It doesn't apply to raw water or grey water.*

MANDATORY OUTDOOR WATER RESTRICTIONS

GFCSD water may only be used for outdoor watering three (3) days per week. This includes but isn't limited to watering lawns, landscapes, gardens, and fruit trees. This also includes drip systems and timed watering devices. Please be sure to adjust these devices if you have them installed.

Currently, homes with addresses ending in an EVEN number (0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) shall limit outdoor irrigation to Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Homes with addresses ending in an ODD number (1, 3, 5, 7 and 9) shall limit outdoor irrigation to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

As required by the State, we will move to two days per week as of June 1st. We will post the specific schedule once it's adopted by our Board of Directors on May 8th. Watch for notices at the Post Office, on our website and in the next billing newsletter.

CITING AND ENFORCEMENT

We are asking all customers to do what you can to reduce your water usage at this time, but we are also aware that we have community members who have very low water usage. We will contact you if your water usage is extremely high or you violate any of the mandatory actions listed above. Citing and enforcement procedures for those who fail to comply with these regulations shall be as follows: 1st offense: verbal and written warning, 2nd offense: \$50 fine, 3rd offense: \$100 fine, and 4th offense: Water Service Termination.

I know many of us are thinking the same thing, how do we conserve MORE? We already use so little! **See the enclosed Conservation Tips sheet for lots of small ways your household can conserve water!**

Be aware of the water flowing down your drains. How much water is wasted when you let a faucet or shower run to get hot water? How much water flows down the drain when you use the garbage disposal? Let's think about ways we can capture that water and put it to use somewhere else!

Check your bill and your water usage every month. There can be unseen leaks that you are not aware of. Our current basic rate is \$60.37. Are you paying more? If so, do you know why? Take your bill and check out the "Average Usage in Gallons per Day" at the bottom of the page. The example below has an average usage per day of 107.92 gallons from a household of four full time residents. How does your usage compare?



Previous Balance		
Penalty		
Total Current Charges		
Statement Total		
Prior Read Date	Current Read Date	Number of Days Read
02/18/15	03/18/15	28
Prior Read Cubic Ft.	Current Read Cubic Ft.	Usage in Gallons
53008	53412	3022
Average Usage in Gallons Per Day		Prior Usage
107.92		3314
Conversion: 1 Cubic Foot = 7.48 Gallons		
Balances not paid in full by the 15th of the month are subject to late fees and charges.		

Take a good long look at your bathroom toilets. The toilet is usually the **BIGGEST** water user in the house! The average person uses the toilet 5 times a day. The average toilet uses 3-5 gallons of water per flush. The average household has 4 people. If you do the math, that's a lot of water! Also, many times toilets have leaks that go unnoticed. Fix those leaks! You can also modify your toilet so it doesn't use so much water per flush or look into replacing your current toilet with a low flow or dual-flow toilet. We hope to see the State put together a rebate program to help homeowners replace those older toilets soon.

ANOTHER REASON TO CONSERVE - BACKWASH TANK REPLACEMENT

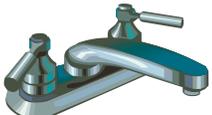
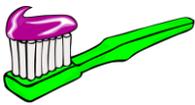
Need another reason to conserve this summer? The District is getting a new backwash tank. We are replacing the two small 40+ year old backwash tanks with a new 50,000 gallon tank. We are doing this project with grant funding we received from the Department of Water Resources (Prop. 84 Funds, 2014 Drought Grant Solicitation). The timing for this project puts construction starting in May and lasting 90 days. We will need your conservation efforts to get this tank installed! To make room for the new tank, we had to remove one of our existing tanks and will be relying on the one remaining through construction. The more water we produce, the more often we have to do backwashes and the more chance there is for an issue. We would appreciate everyone's help in keeping water demand down while we get through this construction!

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

The following websites have drought information, water saving ideas and much more:

- State of California's Drought site: <http://ca.gov/drought>
- California Department of Water Resources site: <http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions>
- A statewide program helping Californians: <http://www.saveourh2o.org>
- Nearly 200 water-saving tips: <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve>

TIPS FOR INSIDE CONSERVATION:

<p>Install Aerators on bathroom faucets. <i>Saves</i> 1.2 gallons per person/day</p>  <p>Fix leaky faucets! 123 gallons per week.</p>	<p>Wash only full loads of clothes or dishes <i>Saves</i> 15-45 gallons per load</p>	<p>Turn off water when brushing teeth. <i>Saves</i> 10 gallons per person/day</p>  <p>Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.</p>
<p>Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers. <i>Saves</i> 12.5 gallons per shower</p>	<p>Fill the bathtub halfway or less for baths. When running a bath, plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills. <i>Saves</i> 12+ gallons per person per bath</p> 	<p>Install a water-efficient shower head (1.5 gallons/min). <i>Saves</i> 1.2 gallons per minute Or 10 gallons per average 10 minute shower.</p>
<p>Don't use the toilet as a trash can (flush only when necessary). <i>Saves</i> 6 gallons per person/day</p>	<p>Have a plumber re-route your greywater to trees and plants rather than the septic line. GFCSD has plans if you need them!</p>	<p>Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.</p>
<p>Fix leaky toilets. <i>Saves</i> 30-50 gallons per day/toilet OR Install a high-efficiency toilet (1.28 gallon/flush) to save even more!</p> 	<p>When shopping for new toilets or fixtures, look for models with the WaterSense® label!</p>	<p>Don't leave water running while rinsing dishes. <i>Saves</i> 175 gallons per week</p>
<p>Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap. Then water your plants with that water.</p> 	<p>Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain</p>	<p>Buy a 5 gallon bucket to keep in your shower! Collect the water that would normally flow down the drain while you are waiting for hot water. Use it to water plants, fill hot tubs or kiddie pools and water animals.</p> 
<p>Don't use running water to thaw food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator.</p>	<p>Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.</p> 	<p>Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste and save gallons every time.</p>

TIPS FOR OUTSIDE CONSERVATION:

<p>Use an automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose <i>Saves</i> 75 gallons per week</p>	<p>Adjust sprinklers to avoid overspray and runoff <i>Saves</i> 160 gallons per week</p>	<p>Eliminate 1 irrigation cycle or reduce each cycle by 2 minutes <i>Saves</i> 560 gallons per week</p>
<p>Don't plan on filling pools or hot tubs during the summer months. Use a cover to limit evaporation and collect water that would normally flow down the drain to fill it!</p> 	<p>We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses.</p>	<p>Water in the early mornings or evenings (before 10:00 am or after 7:00 pm) to avoid high evaporation potential.</p>
<p>Install a "Smart" controller to water with the weather. Depending on how much you water, you could save up to 875 gallons per week!</p>	<p>Install drip irrigation for trees, shrubs, and flowers. <i>Saves</i> 120 gallons per week</p>	<p>Set a kitchen timer when using the hose or sprinkler as a reminder to turn it off. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons per minute!</p> 
<p>Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Don't plant any new landscapes, lawns or trees until our State's water situation improves.</p>	<p>When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your non-edible plants.</p>
<p>Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water. Use that 5 gallon bucket from your shower to let kids fill up their squirt guns and other water toys.</p>	<p>When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.</p> 	<p>Report broken pipes, leaky hydrants and errant sprinklers to property owners or your local water provider. Strange wet spots or puddles on roadways can indicate a leak in our distribution system. Call it in even if you aren't sure so we can check it out! Call (530) 622-9626 or email gfwater@sbcglobal.net.</p>
<p>Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. Were a pipe to burst, this could save gallons of water and prevent damage.</p>	<p>Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.</p>	<p>Don't use your water for wildlife! They have water sources. They don't need to use our treated water.</p>
<p>Use a broom instead of a hose to clean hard surfaces outdoors (now mandatory!). <i>Saves</i> 75 gallons per week.</p> 	<p>If you have a lawn, aerate it! This reduces the amount of water your lawn needs.</p>	<p>Add 2-3 inches of mulch around trees and plants. <i>Saves</i> 63 gallons per week.</p> 