

Water Features

Goleta Water District News – Summer 2022



New California Emergency Drought Regulations

Thank you for being a water saver!

Conservation as a Way of Life

How Much Water Does it Take?

For the typical customer, 50% or more of water use is for outdoor irrigation. Learn where the greatest opportunities for water savings are in your household, and see how the numbers compare for various uses.

Plus: Simple Steps to Increase Water Savings

More info inside.



QR Code

Learn about District-Based Elections at www.GoletaWater.com/districting
para más información www.GoletaWater.com/districting



Conservation as a Way of Life

Across the state, dry conditions and the Governor's Executive Order requiring new emergency drought regulations have brought a renewed focus to the need for conservation. In the Goleta Valley, customers are using 20% less than before the last drought, which equates to residents using a mere 56 gallons per person per day on average, which is far less than the State-wide average of 83 and the Central Coast regional average of 73.

Regardless, given the dire conditions across the state, the Governor's recently adopted Emergency Drought Regulations require the District to request all of its customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%. The District recognizes that some customers may be able to achieve such a reduction by simply reducing outdoor irrigation while others may be more challenged given that they have already implemented stringent conservation measures. Accordingly, this newsletter provides easy to implement tips and best practices for all types of customers including those whose water use is primarily indoors and already very low.

The state regulations also prohibit the District's non-residential (Commercial, Institutional and Landscape Irrigation) customers from using drinking water for ornamental or non-functional turf irrigation. To assist these customers and minimize the impacts to the affected landscapes, the District will continue to offer mulch and smart landscape rebates.

Due to exceptional conservation practices employed by District customers and past investment in a diverse water supply portfolio, the District is well positioned to minimize the impacts of droughts, now and into the future. Thank you for your continued efforts to use water responsibly.

John McInnes

General Manager

New California Emergency Drought Regulations

20% Voluntary Conservation

On May 24, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board, in response to Governor Newsom's **Executive Order N-7-22**, adopted emergency regulations to address severe drought conditions across California. Under the regulations, the District is required to call for a **voluntary 20% reduction in water use by all customers**.

For Commercial, Landscape Irrigation, and Institutional Customers

In addition, Commercial, Landscape Irrigation, and Institutional customers are prohibited from irrigating non-functional or ornamental turf that is not used for human recreation purposes such as school fields, sports fields, and parks. Common examples would be grass on curb strips in front of shopping complexes. Additional details, including the full text of the State's regulation, are available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/emergency_regulation.html.



Irrigating non-functional or ornamental turf is prohibited for non-residential customers.

Lake Cachuma is below 42%

Conservation 101

Q&A

Q: How much water do I use?

A: If you receive a bill from the District, the amount of water used for each monthly billing period will be listed in hundred cubic feet (HCF) on the upper right hand corner of your bill under "Usage." Customers who register for WaterSmart can also view their usage online and will be given a "Gallons Per Day," based on the most recently billed usage.

Printed Bill



Goleta Water
4899 Hollister Ave
Goleta, CA 93110

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Due to dry conditions across the state the Governor's new California Emergency Drought Regulations ask all customers to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20%. To learn more and for tips on conservation, visit www.GoletaWater.com/CA-DroughtInfo.

Cycle: 8/15/2022 to 7/14/2022

Bill Date: 7/14/2022

Due Date: 8/10/2022

METER READ INFORMATION: 1 HCF = 748 GALLONS

Meter #	Prior Read	Current Read	Usage
46035164	700	709	9

Meter Size

3/4"

Sign up at <https://goletawater.watersmart.com/index.php/welcome>. If you don't receive a bill directly, visit www.home-water-works.org/calculator to estimate your use.

Q: What is a low water user?

A: The District's rate structure considers any residential customer using 1-6 HCF a low user, 7-12 HCF as a moderate user, and 13+ HCF a month as a high user. Usage typically varies based on the size and type of landscaping, and leaks can significantly increase use. Regardless of how much you use, turn the page for tips designed to help low, moderate and high water users save water.

Q: I'm taking shorter showers, so why didn't my bill go down?

A: Water bills in Hundred Cubic Feet or HCF, and each HCF is 748 gallons. A shorter shower is likely to save 12-24 gallons, which could take months to show up on the bill. By contrast, reducing your irrigation from watering three days per week to two days per week you could save 4,000 gallons (5 HCF) per month. Because the District bills in tiered rates, a customer who reduces from 15 HCF a month to 11 HCF would see a bigger reduction in their bill than a customer who reduces from 6 to 2 HCF because water use above 12 HCF is billed at the highest per unit rate and the highest monthly service charge under the District's Single Family Residential conservation rates.

Q: I only use 4 HCF—how am I supposed to cut back by 20%?

A: The reality is that the District's lowest water users may not be able to reduce their water use that much. Half of District customers use less than 6 HCF, indicating their usage is primarily indoors. Since landscaping provides the largest opportunity for water savings, cutting back indoors is harder but still possible. Look for and fix leaks, take shorter showers, and run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine. See the next page for more ideas.

Q: What is the easiest way for me to reduce my water use?

A: The biggest water savings are outside, so double check irrigation. Many automatic sprinkler timers will revert to the default setting with a power outage or when a battery is changed. Your timer could be watering more frequently and for a longer duration than is necessary. Visit www.WaterWiseSB.org/calculator for a landscape calculator, or contact the District for a virtual conservation check-up.

How Much Water Does it Take?

Water thrifty Goleta Valley residents are already among the most water efficient in the state, but with renewed concern over dry conditions and the Governor's voluntary ask to reduce 20% everyone is taking a closer look at their water use. How much water do various activities like showering, flushing toilets or watering outdoors take? Where are the largest water savings typically found in the home?

Ultimately, the largest water savings are typically found outdoors. Daily indoor uses range from an estimated half a gallon for drinking water and 1.6 gallons to flush a toilet, to 25 gallons for a 10 minute shower. By comparison, irrigating a lawn for 15 minutes uses an estimated 1,920 gallons. Outdoor irrigation may account for half of a customer's water use or more depending on the size and type of property, and especially the landscaping.

Cutting back outdoor irrigation, whether reducing from three days to two, reducing the length of time watered, or shifting to water in the early mornings and late evenings to reduce water lost to evaporation can result in considerable savings. Customers who only use water indoors, such as those in apartments, or who are already doing their part by implementing the many tips and best practices outlined in this newsletter may already have met their conservation goal and would have a hard time cutting further. For those customers, continuing to use water wisely, while periodically evaluating their use and checking for leaks, remains important.

How much water is used inside your home?

There are many simple ways to conserve water inside your home that can produce significant water savings. You may be surprised to learn how much water is used indoors for everyday tasks. Here is a breakdown of how much water is used in an average home for these common activities:



Curious how much water you use, but don't receive your water bill directly? This indoor calculator estimates the major sources of water usage in the home: www.home-water-works.org/calculator

Tips for Conservation

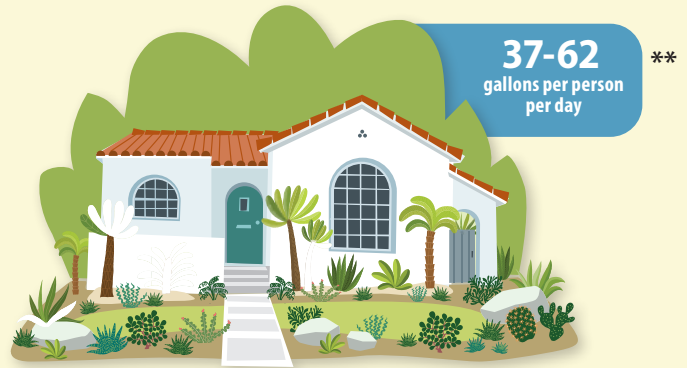
The Largest Savings are Outdoors



**Single Family Residential (SFR)
with One Large Lawn**

(16-20 HCF* per month)

- Consider removing or reducing areas of lawn that get little use such as a front yard.
- Switch out plants for water wise alternatives and convert sprinklers to drip irrigation for these areas.
- Use a pool cover to prevent up to 95% of water lost to evaporation.
- Use the Watering Percent Adjust feature at www.WaterWiseSB.org to match irrigation to weather conditions. Check that irrigation settings have not defaulted to the factory setting, and there are no leaks or overspray. For assistance, contact the District for a virtual conservation check-up.



**Single Family Residential (SFR)
with Water Wise Landscape**

(6-10 HCF* per month)

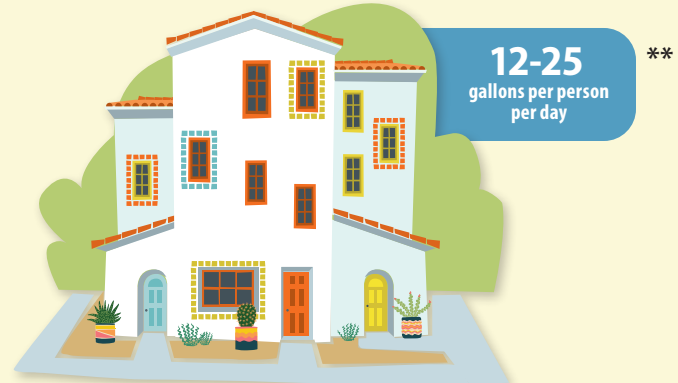
- Periodically check for leaks, overspray and runoff by turning on your irrigation system. Also, confirm that the irrigation scheduling has not defaulted to the factory setting and that it is not overwatering.
- Match irrigation to the Watering Percent Adjust feature to save water by seasonally matching irrigation to local weather conditions.
- Consider converting sprinklers to drip irrigation.
- Mulch plants to further decrease the frequency with which you need to water.



**Single Family Residential (SFR)
with Native Landscaping**

(4-6 HCF* per month)

- Native and very low water use plants can get by with little to no irrigation, and may only need infrequent watering during the summer months.
- Periodically check for leaks by turning on your irrigation system. Also, confirm that the irrigation scheduling has not defaulted to the factory setting and that it is not overwatering.
- Add mulch to plants to further decrease the frequency with which you need to water.
- Not all low water use gardens use cactus! For a gallery of gardens visit the plant database at www.WaterWiseSB.org.



**Multi-Family Residential (MFR)
1 Unit with no Outdoor Landscaping**

(2-4 HCF* per month)

- Check for and fix leaks immediately, especially toilets. A toilet flapper leak can increase usage by 7-10 HCF a month, doubling your bill. Even intermittent leaks can add up quickly.
- Run full loads of laundry or dishes.
- Realize that very low users under 4 HCF are already doing a tremendous job conserving water, and that future reductions may not be as dramatic.

*1 HCF = 748 Gallons

** Assumes 4 people per household

Simple Steps to Increase Water Savings

Make Sure Sprinkler Timers are Set Correctly

Adjusting your irrigation timer is easy and can save significant amounts of water and money, all without sacrificing your landscape. Double check that your sprinklers and automated irrigation timers are set correctly. Improperly set timers are a common source of overwatering, and can result in a higher bill. The easiest way to know how much you can reduce is by using a Landscape Watering Calculator to determine the summer irrigation schedule, then use the Watering Percent Adjust feature on your sprinkler timer to easily adjust the schedule weekly. For detailed instructions on all of the above, visit the Landscape Irrigation section at www.WaterWiseSB.org.



Reduce or Remove Your Lawn

One of the easiest ways to significantly reduce outdoor water use is by removing or reducing the size of your lawn. On average as much as half of residential water use is outdoor irrigation, so removing underused lawns is one of the best options to dramatically reduce water use. The District has information on mulching over your lawn online at www.GoletaWater.com/lawn. Turf removal is also an eligible activity under the District's Smart Landscape Rebate Program, including replacing lawns with lower water use alternatives such as carex, buffalo grass, dymondia, or kurapia. For more information, visit: www.GoletaWater.com/rebates-and-incentives.

Check for Leaks and Overspray

Wet pavement is a sign your system is leaking, overwatering, or that sprinklers may be misdirected. Periodically turn on your system to check for leaks and make sure sprinklers are installed so that they are not watering the sidewalk. Overwatering can also result from an improperly programmed irrigation timer, or a controller that has reset due to a power outage or dead battery, so check your irrigation system periodically. For more information, visit: www.WaterWiseSB.org/2029/Check-Your-Sprinkler-System.



Leaking toilets are a common source of indoor water waste.

Add Mulch to Save Water, Control Weeds and Protect Landscaping

Add a 3-6 inch layer of mulch to protect plant roots from extreme temperature changes, reduce the frequency of watering, and control weeds. Mulch can also be used to visually define spaces and enhance your landscaping. Customers can receive up to two deliveries of mulch from the County of Santa Barbara free per year (limited to \$85 per delivery or \$170 total). For more information, visit: www.GoletaWater.com/mulch.



Use Water Wisely

The following water waste prohibitions remain in effect:



Sweep Don't Spray

Potable water may not be used to wash down sidewalks and driveways.



Landscape Irrigation

Runoff caused by irrigation is prohibited.



Washing Cars

Vehicles must be washed using a hose with a shutoff nozzle.



Fountains & Features

Decorative water features must use recirculated water.

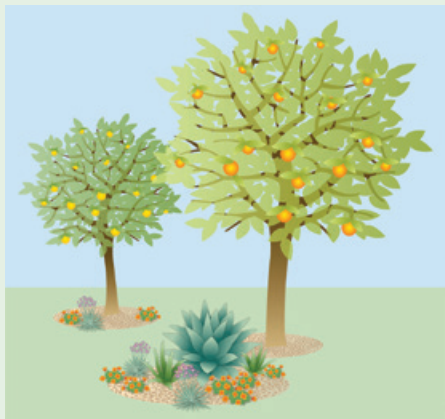


Rain On = Sprinklers Off

Outdoor irrigation is prohibited during and within 48 hours following measurable rainfall.



For more water conservation information visit, GoletaWater.com



A Note on Trees During Drought

During dry conditions even mature trees may need supplemental water, especially if they are planted near sidewalks or pavement. Newer trees (planted in the last three years) need more frequent irrigation. Even as you reduce outdoor irrigation, it is critical to keep trees healthy as they take years to mature and provide many important benefits, including shade, habitat, and erosion control. Deep water trees out to the edge of their canopy and apply water slowly. To reduce evaporation, water in the early morning or late evening. Learn how to deep water your trees with a simple DIY drip irrigation bucket at www.GoletaWater.com/conservation/drip-irrigation-bucket.



GOLETA WATER DISTRICT
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, California 93110
805/964-6761
info@goletawater.com

REMEMBER, YOU CAN PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

Visit our website for more information

www.GoletaWater.com is a great resource
Water-Wise Landscaping Tips and Planting
Resources | Board Meeting Agendas and
Minutes | Information About Rates | Water Quality
and more...

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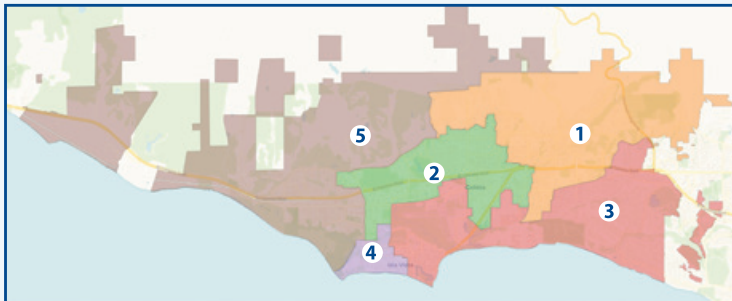
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District-Based Elections Update



Final District Election Map

A Zoomable version of the map is available at www.GoletaWater.com/districting

After a year-long process of hearings and public outreach, the Goleta Water District is transitioning from at-large elections, in which residents may vote for multiple candidates, to district elections, in which voters elect a single board member to represent their specific district or area.

Directors from District 1 and District 2 will be elected during the November 8, 2022 General Election.

The **Goleta Water District Voting District Final Plan** provides detailed demographic information and is available at www.GoletaWater.com/districting



QR Code

CA Low-Income Assistance Program



The State of California has a new utility assistance program to assist income eligible customers with past due balances.

California's new Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides financial assistance to low-income Californians to help manage their residential water utility costs. Qualified, low-income households can apply to receive a one-time credit (up to \$2,000) on their water bill.

For more information, visit
www.csd.ca.gov/Pages/WaterBill.aspx

Contact

Call us: (805) 964-6761
Press 1 for drought information

Visit our office: 4699 Hollister Ave.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

Send us an email:
info@GoletaWater.com

Visit our website:
www.GoletaWater.com

The **District Board of Directors** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The public is always welcome. For more information on how to participate visit www.GoletaWater.com/agendas-and-minutes