

# Water Features

Goleta Water District News – Winter 2016



**The Drought Emergency Continues**

*Thank you for being a water saver!*

## Preparing for Continued Drought Even With Predicted Rain

### *Customers are Conserving Water Through District Rebate and Incentive Programs*

After four years of severe drought and a historic lack of rainfall, water conservation is critical to ensure adequate supplies for public health and safety. The District provides rebate and incentive programs that help customers save water and money.

**Plus: *Customer Scorecard Program Update.***



*[Cover Photo: Storm Water Runoff Catchment Pond and Drought Tolerant Landscape at the District Edible Demonstration Garden]*



# Drought Status Update

While everyone is hopeful that El Niño will bring much needed rain, the District remains actively engaged in planning for continued drought to ensure sufficient supplies remain available for public health and safety. This includes continued conservation rebate programs (featured in this newsletter), active leak and water waste enforcement, and a significant capital program to maintain and enhance the District's groundwater wells, along with critical improvements to the distribution system to minimize service interruptions.

Without substantial rain this winter, the community will face unprecedented drought impacts. The District anticipates that additional severe restrictions on outdoor irrigation, including bans on lawns and irrigation with automatic sprinklers, may be necessary if substantial supply replenishment does not occur in the near term. In the event the drought worsens, the District drought plan also calls for an eventual prohibition on agricultural irrigation to ensure adequate water remains available for basic public health and safety needs. Of course, we are all hoping for significant rainfall this year to avoid further water use restrictions.

As we enter our fifth year of severe drought, the District's groundwater basin continues to serve as our lifeline source of supply, and provides assurance that water will continue to come out of the tap for drinking, health, and public safety needs. As such, the District remains vigilant in protecting and caring for this vital asset and will take all necessary steps to ensure its continued health and viability.

The Goleta Valley community depends on each of us doing our part. Thank you for your conservation efforts to date which have contributed to putting us in a better position than if we had not conserved. We appreciate your help as additional future savings must be realized to preserve adequate supplies for public health and safety needs. Let's all save water together.

John McInnes

General Manager

## Drought Emergency Restrictions

### **Water use restrictions include:**

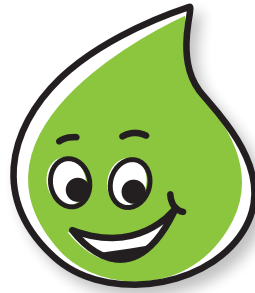
- ◆ Outdoor landscape irrigation *remains* limited to no more than two times per week during early morning or late evening hours, and no irrigation is allowed for 48 hours after it rains:
  - Manual watering (including with a sprinkler attached to a hose) is *now* only allowed before 8 a.m. or after 8 p.m., any two days per week.
  - Use of fixed (i.e. installed) sprinkler systems must comply with the following updated schedule:
    - Residential properties may water Wednesdays and Saturdays, before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
    - Commercial and institutional properties may water Tuesdays and Fridays, before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
  - Public parks, athletic fields, and golf courses may *now* water no more than two days per week, before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- ◆ Hotels, motels, and other lodging are *now* required to post water shortage notices, and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by the patron.
- ◆ Agricultural customers using overhead spray irrigation outdoors are *now* restricted to before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

For a complete list of restrictions, information on conservation, tips, and rebates visit [www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com).

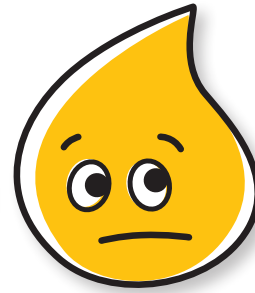
# Drought Scorecard – Are You a Water Saver?

The District's Drought Scorecard provides a snapshot of conservation activities for each customer class, with additional information relevant to the needs of each customer class. Compare your use to determine where you stack up compared to your neighbors or similar customers.

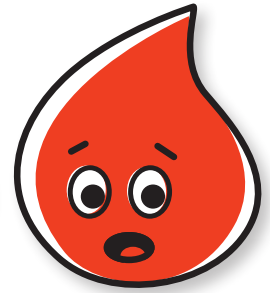
Detailed information is available online for each customer class, with up-to-date information on customer water use patterns and trends, current drought restrictions, rebate programs, and more.



**Great!**



**Close**



**Take Action**

We're all in this together.

Visit [www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com) and click on Drought Portals.



## Recent Customer Questions & Answers

***Q: I see so much building. How can they be building during a drought?***

**A:** Much of the development you see going up now secured water rights years ago, before the current drought. By law, the District cannot take these rights away nor can it prevent property owners from exercising such rights. The recession significantly delayed construction, and the result is that projects are only now getting off the ground. It is important to recognize that the District has not issued any new water allocations since October 2014.

***Q: What is the impact of all this development on the water supply?***

**A:** Under the voter approved SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance the District may only issue 1% its of total water for new allocations if a variety of conditions are met. In 2014, the last year before the moratorium was triggered, 58 acre feet (AF) of new allocations were issued, which represents less than one half of one percent of the 14,380 AF used by District customers during the same period.

***Q: I don't water outside but my water use still seems really high – why is this?***

**A:** Reverse osmosis water systems can waste significant amounts of water. Also consider checking for leaks. Even a silent toilet leak can result in thousands of gallons of additional usage each month. The District provides free water audits. Call (805) 964-6761 Ext 642.

***Q: When is the best time to water?***

**A:** Always observe the watering day and time restrictions, but for plant health and to reduce evaporation watering in the early morning is best. For a full list of restrictions go to [www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com).



# Preparing for Continued Drought

While we all wait and hope for the predicted rains of El Niño, we also need to recognize the limited supply of water that remains after more than four consecutive years of severe drought. The District has received no new water allocations from Lake Cachuma this year due to record low Lake levels, and deliveries for the State Water Project were initially allocated in December at 10%. To make up for the difference, the District is relying more heavily on groundwater, and further water use reductions by customers are necessary. Even significant rain likely won't be enough to end the drought, but it would help ease the current water shortage emergency. Without significant winter rain, there will only be enough water to meet the health and safety needs of customers, and a ban on outdoor irrigation with automatic sprinklers to preserve sufficient water for public health and safety will be necessary. The District continues to do everything it can to responsibly manage the remaining water supply and prevent service interruptions to customers.

## Defending Water Rights

As groundwater has become an increasingly vital source of supply for customers, the District is aggressively defending its groundwater rights held for the benefit of its customers. Under the legal decision known as the Wright Judgment, the District has the largest right to extract groundwater from the basin for sale to its customers. While certain landowners can drill a well and use water for their own purposes, they do not have the right to sell the water off their property. This protection was put in place to prevent overdraft in the basin. In other areas of the state without restrictions, communities have seen their groundwater basins collapse and experience undesirable results such as land subsidence.

A landowner recently proposed to extract water from the watershed that feeds the Goleta Groundwater Basin and sell it for use outside the District's jurisdiction. The District believes this proposal would significantly impact the basin and reduce a critical water supply at a time of extreme drought, impacting the water rights of District customers who have invested over \$100 million in infrastructure in the well program over the last five decades. The District has taken legal action against the landowner to stop the extraction of groundwater from the Goleta watershed for sale, and the lawsuit is ongoing.

## Sophisticated Supply and Demand Forecasting

With dwindling water supplies, the need for an accurate accounting and projection of remaining water supplies grows in importance. In order to ensure that adequate supplies remain available for public health and safety uses such as drinking water and sanitation, the District is doing everything it can to accurately balance the water demands of customers against available supplies. For the past two years, the District has maintained a sophisticated model to accurately forecast supply and demand. The model includes up-to-date information on production and usage, and forecasts anticipated remaining supply by extending out historical water use trends. The model has become a critical tool in managing the District's water supply portfolio, and it has been shared with other south coast water agencies to encourage a more rigorous approach to the region's water planning.

# Even With Predicted Rain

## Potential Future Drought Impacts

- Ban on outdoor irrigation with sprinklers.
- Prohibition on the watering of lawns.
- Prioritization of water for domestic use for public health and safety.

## Demand Management

Conservation remains a key element of the District's drought strategy. Water-thrifty residential customers have led the state by consistently using fewer gallons per person per day. A variety of rebate programs are available for all customer classes to help reduce outdoor irrigation, replace inefficient commercial appliances, aid farmers in removing water-thirsty crops, and installing more efficient irrigation equipment. The District also offers complimentary water audits.

As the drought enters its fifth year, we all hope for relief, but at the same time, we must plan for continued drought because of weather unpredictability. The Goleta Valley is relying on the local groundwater basin and active management of water resources and conservation to manage through this challenging drought emergency. Whether it rains or not, the District will continue to ensure adequate water supplies to maintain public health and safety within the community.



*The award-winning San Ricardo Well is one of seven active groundwater wells in the District's system. Wells are currently supplying the majority of the District's water for the first time in 30 years.*

*Even with winter rain,  
Goleta Valley  
faces significant  
DROUGHT IMPACTS.*

# Save Water and Money

The District has a number of rebate programs to help you save water and money. Projects must be pre-approved for reimbursement, so contact the District today for details and to find out if you qualify!

The **Water Saving Devices Distribution Program** distributes **FREE** water saving devices to customers in order to increase District-wide water savings. Devices include garden hose nozzles with multi-stream and automatic shut-off capability, 0.5 gallon per minute bathroom faucet aerators, 1.5 gallon per minute showerheads, showerhead shut-off valves, toilet leak food coloring test tablets, and toilet flappers.

**Low-flow bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators** use air to break up the flow of water into multiple streams, so while they reduce the rate at which water flows through the device most people won't notice a difference. Each faucet aerator is estimated to conserve approximately 700 gallons per year.



Pick up  
**FREE**  
Devices

Save  
**\$600 +**

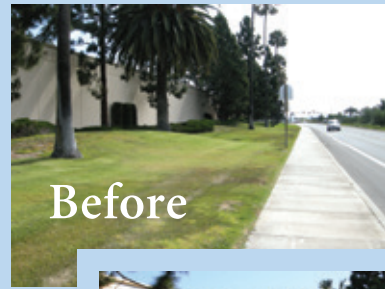


**Showerhead shut-off valves** make it easy to turn off water in the shower without adjusting the temperature settings, letting you save water while you shampoo or shave.

Did you know a silent toilet leak can waste 7,000 gallons or more per month? Pick up a **free toilet leak detection kit** to check for leaks, or add a few drops of food coloring to the back of the tank. Do not flush. After ten minutes, check the bowl. If you see color the tank has a leak. You can pick up a **free toilet flapper** from the District.



The **Smart Landscape Rebate Program** provides incentives to residential and commercial customers to replace water thirsty landscapes and inefficient irrigation with water-wise plants and irrigation. Outdoor irrigation can account for 50% of all water use, or more depending on your lot size. Join over **300 District customers** who have replaced water thirsty turf.



Before



Before



After

**Save money every month**



After

**Rebates up to \$2,000 per meter** for Commercial and Multi-family Residential Customers, and up to \$750 for Single Family Residential Customers.

**Rebates of \$5,000**



The **Water Saving Incentive Program** allows large customers to improve water use efficiency by providing rebates for installation of specific water saving materials to each customer site. Replace inefficient appliances, irrigation systems and more. Open to Commercial, Agricultural, Multi-family and Landscape Irrigation customers.

**Rebates of \$1,200 per acre**



The **Cash for Crops Program** provides \$1,200 per acre to agricultural customers for temporarily taking permanent crops out of production where deemed appropriate by the customer.

Call (805) 964-6761 EXT 642, or visit [www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com)

*\*Numbers are based on savings for completed projects.*



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

## REMEMBER, YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

Visit our website for more information

[www.GoletaWater.com](http://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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## Recycled Water Hauling Program

The **Recycled Water Hauling Program** conserves potable water by delivering surplus recycled water for outdoor irrigation and construction purposes through a water truck hauling program. Recycled water is wastewater that has been highly treated allowing it to be used again as a drought-friendly resource. For more information please contact the Goleta Water District at (805) 964-6761, or visit [www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com)

## Stay Connected on Social Media



Looking for tips on how to save water? Interested in keeping up-to-date on local water use restrictions? Stay informed by following us on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/GoletaWaterDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/GoletaWaterDistrict).

## You Have Enough to Keep Track of – Sign up for Convenient E-Billing!

Have you taken advantage of the District's e-billing program? Sign up to take advantage of flexible and convenient payment options including online billing, the ability to make credit card payments, improved access to account information, water use history, and other online tools. Payments are safe and secure, and can even be automatic.



To learn more about our e-billing system, visit [www.GoletaWater.com/pay-your-bill-online/billing-information](http://www.GoletaWater.com/pay-your-bill-online/billing-information).

## Contact us:

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

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

Send us an email:  
eNews@GoletaWater.com

Visit our website:  
[www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com)

The District Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the District office. The public is always welcome.