

DROUGHT WARNING: WATER SUPPLIES IN JEOPARDY!

WATERLINES

WATER QUALITY AND SERVICE ARE #1

Moulton Niguel Water
www.mnwd.com

December 2009

NEW LEGISLATION AIMS TO IMPROVE STATE WATER SUPPLY

With California's future in the balance, state legislators convened last month in a special session and approved an historic package of legislation aimed at improving the state's beleaguered water-supply outlook – a move that represents the most significant change in California's water policy in 50 years.

The package includes a series of four policy bills that establish a framework to achieve the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply to California and restoring and enhancing the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem. The bills, signed into law by the governor, mandate a 20 percent reduction in the state's overall water use by 2020, require stricter monitoring of underground aquifers, and create a new council to oversee management of the delta. This new council will be key to the development of a much-needed new system to deliver water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains around the delta in an environmentally sensitive manner that provides more reliable statewide water supplies.



Continued conservation is a key element of Sacramento's recent efforts to address the water crisis.

The legislative package also includes an \$11.1 billion bond that must be approved by voters next November. The bond includes funding for new water storage, water recycling and groundwater treatment programs, as well as funds for drought relief, delta restoration and water conservation programs. If approved by the voters, the bond will leverage an additional \$30 billion in local and federal dollars for a total of more than \$40 billion for water infrastructure and related programs.

What This Means for MNWD Customers

The Moulton Niguel Water District is encouraged by these recent steps to remedy the statewide water crisis, but they won't change the current reality that water is in short supply, so MNWD customers must continue to conserve. The plan outlined in the water legislation is a 20- to 30-year effort – not a quick fix. That means MNWD must continue to meet our customers' needs with reduced supplies, and the Mandatory Water Conservation Rules established earlier this year – including the need to reduce water use by 20 percent – must become part of everyone's regular routine moving forward. 💧

BOND SALE SUPPORTS WATER RELIABILITY PROJECTS

MNWD is currently participating in the construction of three major infrastructure projects to enhance local water-supply reliability. These include the Upper Chiquita Reservoir, which will store up to 266 million gallons of water for emergency use, the Baker Water Treatment Plant, which will allow south Orange County to treat its own water when regional treatment plants are shut down, and interconnections to alternative groundwater sources in north Orange County. MNWD began selling nearly \$60 million in bonds this month to finance the District's portion of these projects. This effort has been made more cost-effective thanks to our agency's solid AA+ credit rating. Construction of the facilities is expected to be complete in 2011. 💧

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

Since July 1, MNWD customers have conserved

11.5%

compared to this time last year.

We are **required** to conserve

20%

Are you doing all that you can?

DECEMBER WATER HEADLINES

- Level 2 "Water Alert" remains in effect
- Sacramento passes landmark water legislation
- Progress made on key local water-supply projects
- Three-day-per-week watering continues
- Pilot program studies new local water source

WATER CONSERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH

Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing the leak can save up to 1,000 gallons per month.

For more easy water-saving tips, visit www.mnwd.com or call (949) 831-2500.

PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY DESALINATED WATER FOR SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

After several years of planning and permitting, a new pilot program will soon launch to study the potential of using desalinated seawater to help meet some of the domestic water needs of south Orange County. The South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project is an effort of local water providers and our regional wholesaler, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, to construct a "test slant well" just inland from Doheny State Beach in Dana Point. The project's goal is to determine the ability of the well to produce water from beneath the ocean floor at the desired capacity and quality to justify a full-scale facility that would treat the sub-surface seawater to drinking-water standards for delivery to local customers.

Local development of cost-effective and environmentally sensitive sources of water is necessary to meet our region's future needs, given the water-supply challenges California faces. Access to this new local supply would reduce MNWD's dependence on water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River, and would provide greater supply reliability during emergencies. Desalinated seawater is held to the same strict state and federal standards for water quality as the water that currently flows from your tap.

Test facilities are now under construction and are expected to be ready for operation by April 2010. Testing is scheduled to be conducted through the end of 2011. 💧

A LITTLE COMPARATIVE SHOPPING

On average, a gallon of MNWD tap water costs a fraction of a penny. You simply can't find a better deal for a commodity that means so much to your daily life. Compare that with the cost of some other liquids you might use on a daily basis.



Tap Water

One gallon = less than 1/10 of one cent



Gasoline

One gallon = \$2.49 - \$3.75



Milk

One gallon = \$3.79 - \$4.24



Bottled Water

One gallon = \$1.43 - \$8.00



Soda

One gallon = \$2.80 - \$4.60



Imported Olive Oil

One gallon = \$135 - \$525

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WaterLines is a monthly publication to keep water users in the Moulton Niguel Water District informed about water-related issues and events. Please send any comments or suggestions to MNWD, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677, or call us at (949) 831-2500. www.mnwd.com.

LEVEL 2 "WATER ALERT" IRRIGATION SCHEDULE

Residential

Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo	Monday and Thursday, and Saturday or Sunday
Dana Point, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel	Tuesday and Friday, and Saturday or Sunday

Commercial

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

MNWD's Water Conservation Program prohibits watering between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Recycled water users are exempt from this schedule.

OIL AND WATER DON'T MIX

Pouring cooking grease down the drain is the number one cause of sewage spills because it can damage your sewer line and the District's sewer system and wastewater pumping stations. With all the extra cooking that comes with the holidays, remember to never pour grease down the drain, toilet or garbage disposal. Instead, pour cooking grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze it until it is solid, then dispose of it in a trash can. 💧

Conserve Today: Save Water. Save Money. Protect the Environment.

