

DROUGHT WARNING: WATER SUPPLIES IN JEOPARDY!

WATERLINES

WATER QUALITY AND SERVICE ARE #1

Moulton Niguel Water
www.mnwd.com

November 2009

SERIOUS DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE

Even with a relatively mild summer and a renewed commitment to conservation across the state, California's need for water continues to outpace the state's current ability to convey and store water. Several years of below-average rainfall and court decisions limiting statewide water deliveries have forced more than 100,000 acres of parched farmland to sit fallow in the Central Valley, and we have seen key regional reservoirs drop to dramatic all-time lows. These worsening conditions led California's top water official last month to predict a fourth straight year of statewide drought, and begin bracing for even greater conservation challenges in the years ahead.

At the local level, Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) customers are doing their part to address the drought by working to reduce water use by 20 percent and following a series of conservation rules to ensure enough water to meet our service area's needs.

Where Our Water Comes From

MNWD's water supply does not come from local rain or groundwater. It comes primarily from the Colorado River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which are fed by melting snow in the Rocky and Sierra Nevada



Lake Mead, above, which stores a key source of MNWD's water supply, is currently at 42 percent of capacity due to the statewide drought.

mountains. Both sources received precipitation as a result of last month's storms, but that comes on the heels of 10 years of below average rainfall in the Upper Colorado River Basin and three years of drought in the Sierras.

Reservoirs such as Lake Mead, which serve as our region's "water bank accounts," have been severely drawn down by years of below-average precipitation, and are now averaging just 57 percent of capacity, putting Southern California at risk of severe water shortages.

Conservation Remains Important Year-Round

Conservation offers the most immediate and cost-effective answer to the state's ongoing water shortage, and there's plenty you can do to help. Visit www.mnwd.com for a list of simple steps you can take to use less water and become part of the solution. 💧

REACHING OUR CONSERVATION GOALS TOGETHER

Due to the ongoing statewide drought, MNWD has required our customers to reduce their water use by 20 percent District-wide to avoid financial penalties. How well are we doing? That answer is now easier for our customers to find. In newspaper ads, on our Web site, on a billboard outside our headquarters – even in the top right corner of this newsletter – MNWD is letting customers know exactly how well we're conserving. Since July 1, 2009, our customers have reduced their water use by 11 percent, but we need to save 20 percent to ensure a sufficient supply for everyone, so let's all pitch in and make every drop count! 💧

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

Since July 1, MNWD customers have conserved

11%

compared to this time last year.

We are *required* to conserve

20%

Are you doing all that you can?

NOVEMBER WATER HEADLINES

- Level 2 "Water Alert" remains in effect
- Program updates customers on conservation goals
- Oil and water don't mix during holiday season
- MNWD helps clean watershed at local event
- Three-day-per-week watering continues
- Citizens Advisory Committee seeks members

WATER CONSERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH

Plants require less water in the fall, so adjust your irrigation timer to reflect the shorter days and cooler nights of the current season. Reduce most plants and turf to a maximum of **eight minutes** of watering per station and you'll save thousands of gallons each month.

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

OIL AND WATER DON'T MIX

Help keep holiday grease out of the sewer system

Pouring cooking grease down the drain is the number one cause of sewage spills, because it can damage your sewer line, as well as the District's sewer system and wastewater pumping stations.

With all of the extra cooking that comes with the holidays, MNWD usually sees an increase in the number of problems within the sewer system. As you prepare those turkeys, hams and roasts, here are a few tips to keep excess holiday cooking grease out of the pipes:

- **Never pour grease down the drain, toilet or garbage disposal.**
- **Pour cooking grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze it until it is solid, then dispose of it in a trash can.**
- **Always wipe excess grease from pots, pans, dishes and utensils with a paper towel before washing.**



These simple steps will help to keep excess holiday cooking grease out of the pipes and help prevent sewage spills.

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.

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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.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Beginning this fall, MNWD will be accepting applications for our 2010 Citizens Advisory Committee, which will assist the District in addressing the current water supply challenges facing California. Learn the issues first-hand, provide input and help us spread the word on conservation and water quality! For more information and application materials, please call (949) 831-2500 or visit www.mnwd.com.

BOARD MEETINGS MOVE TO EVENINGS

Beginning November 19, 2009, MNWD will be moving our monthly Board of Directors meeting to the evening to allow for greater public participation. Meetings will now be held at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at MNWD headquarters, 27500 La Paz Rd. in Laguna Niguel.

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

South Orange County's trails, creeks, waterways and open spaces got a facelift last month, thanks to the 13th annual Inner-Coastal Watershed Cleanup Day. Approximately 150 volunteers, including a team of MNWD employees, helped protect the coastline by picking up more than 1,100 pounds of trash and debris from Aliso Creek before it could reach the ocean. At 21 sites across the county, nearly 25,000 pounds of material was removed, including furniture, tires and shopping carts.



MNWD volunteers removed four truckloads of trash from Aliso Creek at last month's cleanup event.

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