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WaterLines

January 2010

www.MNWD.com

Water Supplies Further Reduced During Planned Treatment Plant Shutdown

Efficient water use is critical January 25-31



The Diemer Treatment Plant will be shut down January 25-31, reducing local water supplies.

Conservation and efficient water use is important year-round. During the week of January 25 through 31, it becomes a vital necessity as the regional treatment plant that provides Moulton Niguel Water District's entire water supply will be shut down for scheduled maintenance. That means the District must meet our customers' needs with water stored in local reservoirs, and customers must make the most efficient use of each drop to ensure a sufficient supply.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California operates the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba

Linda, which treats water delivered to our region from Northern California and the Colorado River before it is delivered to water providers including MNWD, and then to our customers. The Diemer Plant will be closed for seven days to undergo extensive upgrades to the facility's treatment and disinfection system.

MNWD is Prepared, yet Conservation Remains Critical

MNWD has stored sufficient water in local reservoirs to continue meeting our customers' needs during this period, but it remains crucial that customers follow the Mandatory Water Conservation Rules established in December 2008 (see back page).

The District is currently working on several projects to dramatically improve local storage and reliability, and has adopted a policy of developing local supplies and storage so that ultimately we will be able to withstand an imported-water outage of up to 31 days. In the meantime, customers are asked to be extra vigilant with their water use during this period. Please call us at (949) 831-2500 or visit the new www.MNWD.com if you have any questions.

Water Conservation Update

Since July 1, MNWD customers have conserved

11.1%

compared to this time last year.

We are required to conserve

20%

Are you doing all that you can?

Conservation Tip

Replace your old toilets with new high-efficiency models and save up to 17,500 gallons each year.

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

Recent Storms Don't Spell End to Conservation Need

For the past year, California's water shortage has been front-page news. Last November, Sacramento passed truly historic legislation to begin addressing problems with the state's water delivery system. And in recent weeks we have finally seen the rain we so desperately needed. So, does this mean our water problems are over?



MNWD's water comes from Northern California and the Colorado River – not local rains.

Simply put, no. Here's why.

1. **MNWD's water supply does not come from local rain or groundwater.** It comes from the Colorado River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which are fed by melting snow in the Rocky and Sierra Nevada mountains. It will take much more than a few storms in those areas to refill our "water bank account."
2. **MNWD must rely on water stored in local reservoirs to meet our customers' needs during emergency interruptions** of this "imported" water. We are building new projects to increase our storage, but being efficient with our supplies remains necessary.
3. **The problem with the state's water system is not just the drought.** Environmental and regulatory issues with the Delta and Colorado River currently limit the state's ability to transfer water to Southern California from elsewhere in the state.
4. **Fixing the broken system will take time.** Even if the water bond approved by the legislature is passed by voters in November 2010, it could take up to 20 years to complete the work necessary to bring Southern California more reliable water supplies.

Using less water is easy, and MNWD is here to help. Visit the new www.MNWD.com to learn how today.

Customers Come First on District's New Web Site

MNWD recently enhanced our Web site to make it easier for customers to get the news and information they need to be water wise.



- Learn tips to save money by saving water
- Learn how conservation protects the environment
- Save time and money with online bill pay
- Encourage your children to learn about water in our interactive Kids Zone

Visit the new www.MNWD.com today!

Citizens' Advisory Committee to Promote Conservation

More than 30 local residents gathered last month at MNWD to kick off the 2010 Citizens' Advisory Committee, a group of community volunteers that help spread awareness of conservation, water quality and other water-related issues. They were introduced to the District's Board of Directors and given a presentation on MNWD's mission and infrastructure, and issues the District is facing, including the ongoing statewide water shortage. The group will meet periodically throughout the year and is an important tool in helping MNWD reach our conservation goals.

MNWD Earns an AA+ Grade

Bond rating saves customers millions

MNWD was recently awarded an AA+ stable credit rating from both the Fitch and Standard & Poor's rating firms, allowing the District to issue "Build America" stimulus bonds at lower interest rates for water-supply improvement projects. The rating will save our ratepayers as much as \$5 million over the life of the bonds.

AA+ is the second highest credit rating possible, and is an indicator to our ratepayers that MNWD has been and will continue to be a careful steward of public funds. The rating also makes it possible for us to save significant amounts of money in interest payments as we construct necessary improvements to our water-supply reliability and storage capacity. The projects funded with these bonds will help to ensure enough water is available for our customers during emergency conditions.



MNWD's portion of Upper Chiquita Reservoir will be funded using low-interest bonds, saving customers up to \$5 million.



January's Native Plant of the Month: Blue-eyed Grass

After the winter rains, blue-eyed grass blooms into tall, grass-like leaves and purple-blue flowers. Growing in bunches 18 inches high, blue-eyed grass can lend your garden an informal and natural feel.

This spring bloomer is a relative of irises, but has a much smaller flower. The blooms are only about a half an inch long, with bright yellow centers.

Plant blue-eyed grass where it has room to grow, because this perennial will spread and sprout new colorful clumps each year. Like all California-friendly plants, blue-eyed grass doesn't need much water. Just douse it twice a month during the summer to keep it healthy.

Blue-eyed Grass

Sisyrinchium bellum

Season:	Spring
Size:	18 inches tall
Color:	Blue flowers
Water:	Twice a month in the summer
Sun:	Partial shade

New Finance Director to Maintain MNWD's Conservative Approach

MNWD recently welcomed David Cain as the District's new Director of Finance and Treasurer. David graduated with a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge and brings to MNWD 30 years of financial experience, including 16 years in the public sector with local water providers. He is a leader within the water industry, having received numerous awards for his budgeting and financial reporting, and serving as a board member for the regional chapter of the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. David aims to maintain the District's 10-year cash-flow plan and will begin to study potential new rate models that could reward customers for their efficient water use. He will be a great asset to the District as we continue to provide our customers a reliable water supply at the lowest possible cost.

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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.

Making Conservation a Way of Life

MNWD's Mandatory Conservation Rules

- Reduce water use by 20 percent
- Irrigation of lawns, landscapes and other vegetation is limited to three days per week (see watering schedule below)
- Watering is limited to eight minutes per day, per station
- Watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Excessive watering resulting in runoff is prohibited
- No hosing down hard or paved surfaces
- A bucket or hose with a shut-off nozzle must be used when washing vehicles.



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.

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