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# WaterLines

November 2011

[www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com)

## Save Water and Money with MNWD Rebates

Moulton Niguel Water District customers now have new ways to save water and money with the launch of the District's water-efficiency rebate program.

Beginning this month, rebates are available to all MNWD customers for purchasing water-efficient products. The program is supported by funds generated from customers whose water use exceeds their water budgets, and is a key tool in helping all MNWD customers become more water-efficient.



*MNWD customers can receive \$200 for purchasing a new high-efficiency washing machine.*

Rebates are available for a wide range of products, including:

### Toilets

Replace your old toilet with a new efficient model and receive up to \$150 per toilet, on a maximum of five toilets. Many older models use up to seven gallons per flush. High-efficiency toilets use less than 1.5 gallons and can save thousands of gallons of water per year.

### Washing Machines

Receive a rebate of \$200 for the purchase of a new efficient washing machine, and save even more as you use less water each year.

### Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers

Install a weather-based irrigation controller to manage watering times for your lawn and garden,

and MNWD will issue a check for \$25 per station, up to \$600. Plus, weather-based irrigation controllers are the easiest way to help ensure you stay within your monthly water budget.

Receiving a rebate is simple. First, visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) to see a list of approved products. Then make a purchase at the retailer of your choice. Let us know by filling out a rebate application on the District's website, and MNWD will issue you a rebate check. Plus, you may be eligible for additional rebates through the Municipal Water District of Orange County. **MNWD rebates will be retroactive for qualified products purchased after July 1, 2011.**

MNWD is committed to helping all of our customers use water efficiently. If you have questions about the rebate programs or other ways to save water and money, please visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) or contact us at (949) 831-2500.

## Water Efficiency Update

Last month

# 76%

of MNWD customers remained within their water budgets.

*Are you using more than you need?*

## Calculate Your Water Budget

Visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) or call (949) 831-2500 to learn more about Water-Budget-Based Rates and to calculate the personalized water budget for your home.



## Upper Chiquita Reservoir Ready to Serve

**New reservoir is one of the largest public works projects in South Orange County.**

Capping nearly 10 years of planning, two years of construction and three months of filling, the Upper Chiquita Reservoir is now online, providing MNWD customers an additional week of emergency water storage in the event of planned or unplanned regional supply disruptions.

The reservoir is a joint effort between MNWD, Santa Margarita Water District, South Coast Water District, and the cities of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano. MNWD holds rights to 34 percent of the reservoir's water, or approximately 83 million gallons. With a capacity of 244 million gallons, it is South Orange County's largest domestic water storage facility.

Upper Chiquita Reservoir is located in Chiquita Canyon, north of Oso Parkway and just west of State Route 241 in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. It was constructed by creating an earthen dam along the western edge of the canyon. This design allows the reservoir to blend into the Chiquita Canyon hillside, utilizing the natural features of the environment in ways that a steel-tank reservoir could not.

Upper Chiquita Reservoir is not joined with any natural water source, such as a stream or river, but will be filled with water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River. It features an impervious floating cover, high-tech moisture sensors and other devices that constantly monitor the reservoir, allowing for up-to-the-moment detail on water levels within the structure, immediate notification of any structural irregularities or vulnerabilities, and timely diagnostics for routine maintenance.

### AT A GLANCE

<b>Design:</b>	<b>Lined and covered earthen dam</b>
<b>Storage Capacity:</b>	<b>244 million gallons</b>
<b>Surface Area:</b>	<b>17.8 acres</b>
<b>Footprint:</b>	<b>27 acres</b>
<b>Dam Height:</b>	<b>145 feet</b>
<b>MNWD Ownership:</b>	<b>34 percent</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Oso Parkway next to State Route 241</b>

# 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 clog your sewer line and damage 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 until 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 keep excess holiday cooking grease out of the pipes and help prevent sewage spills.



## California-Friendly Plant of the Month:

### Winter Red



In 1735, famed Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus admired historic engravings of a beautiful flowering plant, and while gazing across the Mediterranean Sea, named them Proteas after the legendary Greek sea god. The most striking of the Proteas family is the Winter Red.

Winter Red is a bushy shrub with yellow flowers that turn deep red toward the tip. It grows fast in full sun with well-drained soil, and thrives on just a little rainfall, making it perfect for South Orange County conditions. Winter Red blooms in late summer and lasts through the winter, so now is the right time to add this Protea to your California-Friendly garden.

#### Winter Red *Leucadendron Salignum*

Season:	Late summer-winter
Size:	Up to 4 ft. tall and wide
Color:	Yellow and red flowers
Water:	Low
Sun:	Full sun

## Are You Overwatering Your Plants?

The months of October, November and December are when Southern Californians typically waste the most water. During this period, plants require roughly 70 percent less water than during the summer months, but many mistake the seemingly summertime weather as a call to continue their summertime watering schedules.

**Most plants, including your lawn, only need four to six minutes of watering two to three days per week this time of year.**

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*For meeting dates and agendas, visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com).*

*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](http://www.MNWD.com).

## California-Friendly Landscape Workshops

Please join us for a FREE landscape workshop to learn the California-Friendly way to a beautiful landscape that uses less water and saves you money.

### You'll learn:

- ✿ How water budgets work
- ✿ How to pick the right plants
- ✿ How to manage your sprinkler system for efficient irrigation
- ✿ The proper way to fertilize and maintain your water-wise garden

### Saturday, November 5 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MNWD Operations Facility  
26161 Gordon Rd., Laguna Hills

### Wednesday, November 9 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MNWD Main Office  
27500 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel

### COST: Free

These workshops include refreshments. Space is limited and the reservations fill quickly. For more information or to RSVP, please call (949) 831-2500.

## Have You Exceeded Your Water Budget? MNWD is here to help!

Follow these four steps if your water use has exceeded your water budget:

- ✓ **Request a Home Savings Survey**  
Call or click to schedule an appointment for the MNWD Conservation Team to visit your home and review your watering practices.
- ✓ **Take Advantage of Rebates**  
You can receive hundreds of dollars in rebates by purchasing water-efficient products. See this month's cover story or visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) to learn more.
- ✓ **Look for Leaks**  
Leaks are the most common source of wasted water. Check your toilets and sprinkler systems to make sure they're working properly.
- ✓ **Review Your Water Budget**  
Visit the online calculator at [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) to review the details of your water budget and request any necessary adjustments.

For additional ways to use water efficiently and remain within your water budget, please visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) or call us at (949) 831-2500.

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