

May 2009

MINWD SUPPLIES REDUCED BY STATEWIDE WATER SHORTAGE

District enacts Level 2 Water Alert, new mandatory conservation measures added

The severity of California's water-supply shortage continues to worsen, as local water providers, including the Moulton Niguel Water District, learned in April they will receive far less water in the coming year. MNWD will have to meet customer demand with a reduction in supply of approximately 15 percent from our wholesaler, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), due to several years of below-average precipitation and environmental restrictions on water pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The news prompted MNWD's Board of Directors to approve increased mandatory conservation measures to ensure a reliable supply for its customers.



Customers must reduce landscape irrigation to three days per week beginning June 1. See schedule on reverse side.

The action will raise the District's Water Supply Response to Level 2 on June 1. This requires customers to reduce water use by up to 20 percent, and mandates that all non-essential watering cease, that customers fix leaks within 72 hours, and that lawns and gardens be watered only three days each week. These measures are in addition to the existing 12 mandatory water-use rules established earlier this year in the District's Water Conservation Program, which can be found at www.mnwd.com.

"This year's reduced water allocation highlights a stark new reality: The old ways of using water simply won't work in today's conditions," said MNWD General Manager Robert Gumerman. "Our region is suffering from serious reductions in the amount of water we receive, which means everyone must take immediate steps to use water more efficiently. The ongoing statewide water shortage is beginning to have serious local implications."

The 20 percent mandatory reduction is based upon water use district-wide, not on the individual water use of each customer. But if MNWD customers do not save water, the District will use more water than we are allocated, and will be charged significant penalties that ultimately will be passed along to everyone - so we all have a motivation to conserve. The District has started issuing written warnings, which will be followed by fines for customers in violation of these important, mandatory rules.

MNWD understands these actions require significant changes in how you use water, but your cooperation with these rules will help ensure a sufficient water supply for all of our customers. If you have any questions about the mandatory water conservation measures and for easy tips to use less water, please visit www.mnwd.com or call the Customer Service Department at (949) 831-2500. 💧

MAY WATER HEADLINES

- Board enacts Level 2 Water Alert
- Local water deliveries to be cut by 15%
- California's key reservoirs heading towards record lows
- Rate hearing set for May 21 at 6 p.m.
- Landscape workshops scheduled in May and June

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM RULES #3 AND #4

#3 Excessive watering resulting in runoff is prohibited.

#4 No hosing down of hard or paved surfaces.

View all 12 water conservation rules at www.mnwd.com or call (949) 831-2500.

RATE INCREASE HEARING ON MAY 21

Customers will have the opportunity to provide input on the rate change proposal

The MNWD Board of Directors will consider the proposed rate change after a public hearing on May 21 at 6 p.m. at the District's Main Office, 27500 La Paz Rd. in Laguna Niguel. Customers will have the opportunity to share their views at the hearing, shortly after which the Board will make a decision on the proposal. Visit www.mnwd.com or call (949) 831-2500 to learn more.

CONSERVING WATER IS EASY

Follow these simple steps to use less water

What You Can Do	How Much You Can Save
BATHROOM	
• Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth.	3 gallons per day
• Install a low-flow showerhead.	4.5 gallons per shower
• Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other waste in the trash.	5 gallons per flush
• Install ultra-low-flush toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush versus standard toilets, which use 3.5 to 6 gallons.	3 gallons per flush
• Tune up your leaky toilets – the number one water-waster in your home.	78,000 gallons in one year – enough to fill two swimming pools!
WASHING MACHINE	
• Wash only full loads in the washing machine.	15 to 20 gallons per load
KITCHEN	
• Wash only full loads in the dishwasher.	6 gallons per cycle
• Never put water down the drain when there's another use for it, like watering plants or cleaning.	Hundreds of gallons per year
• Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.	2 gallons per day

WATER SUPPLY RESPONSE LEVEL 2 WATERING SCHEDULE

As part of Water Supply Response Level 2, residential and commercial watering must be limited to the three days per week shown in the chart below.

Residential Irrigation

Aliso Viejo Monday and Thursday,
Mission Viejo and Saturday or Sunday

Dana Point Tuesday and Friday,
Laguna Hills and Saturday or Sunday
Laguna Niguel

Commercial Irrigation

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard S. Fiore
President

Gerald E. Buck
Vice President

Donald Froelich
Vice President

Lawrence R. Lizotte
Gary Kurtz

Larry McKenney
Brian Probolsky

Robert C. Gumerman, Ph.D., P.E.
General Manager

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.

CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

California-Friendly Gardening Overview

Gene Ratcliff, Ph.D., a certified representative from the Tree of Life Nursery, will provide a complete overview of water-conserving landscapes and gardening, including efficient sprinkler systems and products, drought-tolerant and native plants, and water-saving landscaping tips, all in a **FREE** two-hour class.

When: Wednesday, May 20 or Wednesday, June 10
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: MNWD's Main Office
27500 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel

"Mini" Landscape Workshop

Learn about basic landscape design, sprinkler systems, fertilizers, the benefits of using native plants, and how to plant and care for them. Each workshop fee includes lunch and conservation materials.

When: Saturday, May 30 or Saturday, June 27
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: MNWD's Operations Facility
26161 Gordon Rd., Laguna Hills

Cost: \$10 per person or \$15 per couple

Call the Customer Service Department at (949) 831-2500 for more information and to reserve your place in any of the classes above.