



**moulton niguel** water district

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
**JULY 2016**

## Drought or No Drought?

The latest action by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) had the headlines flying. After nearly a year of emergency regulations that mandated strict cutbacks, it's no wonder that we are quick to hope that there's relief from this unprecedented drought condition. The hope was further fueled in Southern California as Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), wholesale water provider to approximately 19 million people, rescinded its Allocation Plan that required 15 percent reduction. But the fact is – the drought is not over.

In order to reconcile some of the concerns that we're hearing, it's helpful to understand the context. Last June, as dry conditions worsened and some communities were running out of water, the Governor directed the SWRCB to mandate emergency regulations because the voluntary call to reduce water use in 2014 was met with little response. The regulations would stay in effect for 9 months. Water providers were given reduction targets ranging from 4 to 36 percent, requiring them to achieve these targets within the 9 months or face a daily fine of up to \$10,000. In the history of California, this was the first time the SWRCB responded with this level of enforcement. Despite the heavy load, the people of California took to the regulations with enthusiasm, and the State achieved the Governor's goal of reducing urban water use. Then in January, due to persistent drought conditions, the emergency regulations were extended until October 2016.

During this time, we were anxiously awaiting El Niño, but in Southern California, aside from a handful of good storms, much of the precipitation bypassed us and showered the northern part of the State. At the urging of water providers who felt that their local conditions had improved from the rainfall and those who felt that their original reduction targets were problematic, the SWRCB reconsidered the regulations and modified them. The last set of modifications, set to take place this summer, will likely result in numerous agencies in Southern California seeing their targets reduced.

As of last month, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the SWRCB and the Department of Water Resources to develop a long-term framework, requiring permanent actions to achieve water efficiency. If there was any question as to whether or not California should be concerned about prolonged dry conditions and if efficiency will be a requirement going forward, the long-term framework is a clear answer that we are living in a new reality where water efficiency has to be a part of our daily lives and ongoing awareness. New supply projects are critical to the overall reliability of the State, but every drop of water, regardless of its source, needs to be used efficiently.

And if none of the above matters, there's one thing to remember: *it's not about using less; it's about wasting less.* Whether it's emergency regulations, long-term framework, local ordinance or state legislation, what we're trying to do is eliminate water waste. We all know that water is a precious, limited, and scarce resource. Despite what the news says or what actions are mandated, we should all do the right thing. So, let's continue to do our part and take good care of the one natural resource that we all need for life.

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# activities & updates

**Friday, July 22, 2016**

**Aliso Viejo National Night Out**

Get to know your local police force at Aliso Viejo's National Night Out. From 5-8pm at Aliso Viejo's Grand Park on City Lights Drive, this community safety event includes family friendly activities and refreshments as well as educational demonstrations courtesy of Aliso Viejo's finest!



## **District Receives Financial Reporting Award**

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the District's Annual Financial Report ending June 30, 2015. This is the fourth year in a row the District has received this award!

## **FOLLOW US ONLINE!**



## **IT'S BETTER ON TAP!**

Our 2015 water quality and consumer confidence report is available electronically online at

[mnwd.com/CCR](http://mnwd.com/CCR)



# **WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?**



Use a commercial or self-service car wash, rather than washing at home



Keep your pool covered to prevent evaporation



Place organic mulch around plants to help them retain moisture



Switch to water-efficient sprinkler nozzles to save water and prevent damage caused by overwatering



Install water-efficient drip irrigation systems to water plant roots more efficiently



Upgrade to "smart" weather-based irrigation controllers, which automatically adjust based on weather

For more information, visit [www.mnwd.com/yourmnwd](http://www.mnwd.com/yourmnwd)

Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) provides drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater service to approximately 170,000 customers in South Orange County. Have questions? Call us at **949.831.2500** or email us at [outreach@mnwd.com](mailto:outreach@mnwd.com).