# Where Our Water Comes From

How clean drinking water gets to your faucet is a testament to one of the most complex engineering marvels of the modern age. Customers of the Moulton Niguel Water District receive their drinking water from one of two sources, both located hundreds of miles away from Southern California: The Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Both systems require the sophisticated engineering of aqueducts, reservoirs, pump stations, and treatment plants to ensure water is available on demand through mountains and across deserts.

Constructed in 1939, the 242-mile-long Colorado River Aqueduct played a critical role in the economic development of Southern California in the mid-20th century. Over the past 16 years, demand for water has outpaced supply from the Colorado Watershed. Lake Mead, a critical reservoir for Southern California, is presently at the lowest level on record since it was filled.

The other major supply of water travels over 700 miles from the Sierra Nevada Mountains through the State Water Project. It was built in 1960 and is one of the few manmade structures that can be seen from space. Due to environmental concerns and reduced snowpack, water supply through the aqueduct has been reduced over the past seven years. A major initiative to increase reliability of this critical system is underway in the California Water Fix to create both an engineered solution for water delivery in the delta and habitat restoration as part of an environmental mitigation for endangered species.

Currently, all water delivered to our customers from both the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct is treated at Metropolitan Water District's Diemer Water Treatment Plant. Due to the potential risk to the area's water supply in the event of an earthquake or natural disaster, the District's Board of Directors took prudent actions to invest more than $70 million in regional projects to increase local reliability. We worked closely with our regional partners to develop emergency storage, emergency connections, and additional water treatment facilities. These investments, along with local demand management efforts by our customers, provide the District reliability in the event of an interruption to any of these water sources. Additionally, we are always looking at other opportunities to reduce dependence on imported water supplies through expanding our recycled water program or other local project investments.

Overall, tens of billions of dollars have been invested to create and maintain this intricate system of infrastructure to supply reliable clean water. So the next time you reach for a glass of water or irrigate your landscape, take time to reflect on the modern marvel providing that precious resource. Our customers have done an outstanding job being more efficient as the drought continues and we encourage your continued vigilance in reducing water waste, remember, it's not about using less, it's about wasting less!

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# activities & updates

## The Speakers Bureau

Have a question for MNWD? Check out our Speakers Bureau! This free program gives community members the chance to learn about water issues from our representatives. These customized presentations cover a range of topics including water conservation, rebates, recycled water, and water budget rates. If your organization would like to schedule a presentation by an MNWD representative at an upcoming meeting, please visit: **www.mnwd.com/speakers** or call **949. 831. 2500** and ask for the Conservation Department.

## MNWD Landscaping Workshops

Saturday, September 10, 2016 - 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, October 8, 2016 - 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, October 22, 2016 - 9 AM to 12 PM

Ready to create your own drought-tolerant garden? We offer free landscaping workshops to help you beautify your yard while being water-wise! These three-hour classes cover everything from native plant selection to using rainwater as a resource. To sign up for one of these informative workshops, visit: **www.mnwd.com/landscapeclasses**.

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

**DO**

- Replace your lawn with beautiful California friendly plants
- Install water-efficient showerheads and toilets
- Replace older, inefficient clothes washers

**DON'T**

- Leave water running when washing dishes, shaving or brushing your teeth
- Water your plants many times throughout the day
- Leave the bathtub unplugged while waiting for the optimal temperature

# MNWD Customers Remove Four Million Square Feet of Turf

This Summer, an incredible milestone was achieved by our customers: four million square feet of turf was removed in the District's service area – that is enough turf to cover Vatican City!

As we experience record-high temperatures and a fifth consecutive year of drought, it is important to remain committed to continued water conservation and using our water efficiently. Nearly 70% of water is used outdoors and by removing even a portion of turf and planting a drought-tolerant landscape, we can save up to half of that outdoor water use.

The Turf Removal Program is designed to encourage residents and commercial customers to take action and help conserve our precious drinking water. Currently, we are offering a water conservation rebate of up to $2 per square foot for residential, commercial, and public agency projects that meet the program requirements.

We thank you for your continued conservation efforts. If you are interested in participating in MNWD's Turf Removal Program and learning more about the rebate process, please visit **www.mnwd.com/turfrebates** or call our Conservation Department at **949. 448. 4025**.

# Stay in the Know with AlertOC

We understand the importance of offering resources and programs to stay connected with our communities. As such, the District offers AlertOC, a system that provides emergency notifications to participants in the event of local or regional water-related emergencies.

AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from MNWD, the County of Orange, or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell, or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts, and hearing impaired receiving devices.

Customers can sign up for these alerts by registering online at **www.alertoc.com** or texting **ALERTOC** to **888-777**.

For more information, visit **www.mnwd.com/yourmnwd**

**FOLLOW US ONLINE!**