

SCWA TO GET NEW CREW

With SCWA's customer base set to exceed 40,000 households starting July 1, 2005, a 120-member field crew will be transferring from the Sacramento County Department of Water Quality to SCWA.

The crew, which has provided operations and maintenance services for SCWA in the past, will now be overseen directly by SCWA. This will allow for direct control over scheduling, prioritizing and coordinating different maintenance functions to ensure increased efficiency for SCWA and a higher level of service to its customers.

www.scwa.net

SCWA has a new home on the World Wide Web! Our new Web address is www.scwa.net. Visit our site for information about billing, governance, meter reading, water conservation programs and rebates, news releases and more!

REBATE CENTRAL!

SCWA has some great programs to save you money on water efficient equipment.

LARGE LANDSCAPE SAVINGS

Customers who receive meter bills use SCWA water for irrigation and irrigate at least one acre of land, may be eligible for up to \$5,000 per site to be used towards irrigation equipment improvements (cost of labor not included). These rebates include:

- **50 percent rebate** for irrigation controllers, sprinkler heads and sub-meters
- **75 percent rebate** for drip irrigation equipment and pressure regulation devices
- **100 percent rebate** for moisture sensors, rain shut-off devices, check valves and nozzles

Those eligible will receive 50 percent of their rebate upon approval and 50 percent after the customer meets their water budget for one year. This money is available through a grant from the State of California Department of Water Resources and the Regional Water Authority. Call Gail at 875-4217 for more information.

STOP FLUSHING AWAY MONEY!

Customers may qualify for rebates up to \$125 if they replace a two-gallon-per-flush (gpf) or greater toilet with an ultra-low flush model (1.6 gpf or less).

Questions? Please call Gail Tauchus, Water Conservation Coordinator, at 875-4217 or visit us online at www.scwa.net.

WATER SPOUTS

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
SACRAMENTO
COUNTY
WATER
AGENCY

DON'T BE A DRIP! BE WATER SMART!

Please remember that it is important to be aware of your water use, especially during the dry summer months. SCWA has many programs to help our customers save water.

The SCWA Water Waste Prohibition Program was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1990. It established water conservation standards and provided customer assistance in implementing efficient practices. As part of the program, Water Agency employees investigate complaints and patrol service areas to minimize cases of water waste. Water wasters will receive a notice that describes the problem and offers corrective actions. Some of the water conservation measures are:

- **IRRIGATION WATER** will not be allowed to run off into adjoining properties or into a ditch or gutter.
- **OPEN HOSES** are not allowed. All hoses should be equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles.
- **USE OF WATER** to clean sidewalks, driveways and patios is not permitted.
- **LEAKING** pipes, fixtures or sprinklers will be repaired promptly.

If you live in a home built before 1992 and haven't done so already, contact the County

about a retrofit kit to make your home more water efficient! These kits include items such as faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads and toilet water displacement devices that can significantly reduce water use in your home. Call Sherri at 875-6919 to get your free kit.

You also should consider having county-contracted experts perform a **free Water Wise House Call** to help identify areas where your home could become more water efficient—both inside and out. Experts will examine your home and yard for areas of improvement such as leak repair, the addition of water saving devices and adjustments to your irrigation system. The check-ups take about two hours to complete and within 10 days, customers will receive a written report of the analysis including a custom 12-month watering schedule and an evaluation form.

If you are interested in this service, please call Mike or Phyllis Connor at 772-2226 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

BE COOL ABOUT SUMMER WATERING

In the summer months, water use can increase by as much as 250 percent! By following these steps, it's easy to be water efficient and keep your yard green.

WATER WITH THE WEATHER! Consider installing a rain sensor that will automatically shut off your irrigation system when it's raining, cutting down on unnecessary watering. **Rain sensors are available free** (an \$18 value) through a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. To qualify, schedule a free Water Wise House Call. Call 772-2226.

TROUBLESHOOT SPRINKLERS! Turn on your sprinklers to see if you have any excessively wet or dry spots in the yard. If you do, you may have broken, clogged or misdirected sprinkler heads that need to be adjusted or repaired. Be sure to adjust any sprinklers that are spraying sidewalks and driveways—water should only be directed at the landscapes.

LOOK FOR LEAKS! If you have a meter, shut off all water fixtures (inside and out) and then check your water meter. If the leak detection dial (the triangular-shaped device) is still turning, you probably have a leak. Check your toilets, faucets and showerheads first to make sure there are no indoor leaks. Then, check your sprinkler heads, valves and landscaping for signs of leakage.

DON'T LET YOUR PETS POLLUTE

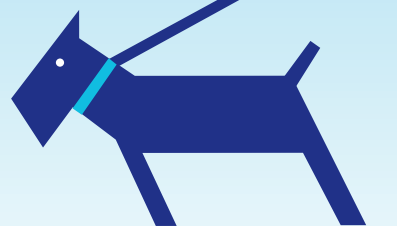
Springtime is a perfect time to get out of the house and take Fido for a stroll, but it is your responsibility to pick up after your pet for the protection of our local waterways.

PROBLEM: When it rains, pet waste left on lawns, trails and sidewalks wash into the storm drain system, flowing directly into our local creeks and rivers, untreated. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can negatively affect the environment and human health.

SOLUTION: Only you can prevent pet waste pollution.

Here are some tips to remember:

- Dispose of sealed pet waste in the trash.
- Flush pet waste down the toilet.
- Never dump pet waste into a storm drain.
- Always carry a plastic bag with you to pick up after your pet.



QUESTIONS?

Call us at the phone numbers listed below. We will be happy to assist you.

CONSERVATION/METERING:

Gail at 875-4217 or
Chuck at 875-4915

WATER WASTERS:

Sherri at 875-6919

WATER QUALITY:

Dispatch at 875-7246

BILLING: 875-5555

Visit us online at our new
Web address:

www.scwa.net.

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



SACRAMENTO COUNTY
WATER AGENCY

*Managing Tomorrow's
Water Today*

Sacramento County
Water Agency
Directors

Roger Dickinson
Illa Collin
Roberta MacGlashan
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SPEEDY METER READING

SCWA is continuing to install water meters in its service area and convert customers with existing meters to metered billing. To date, we have almost 20,000 customers on metered billing. This year, there will be an additional 3,600 converted from flat rate to the metered rate in the SCWA service area.

Reading all of those meters can take a lot of time! Currently, a meter reader must go to each meter in order to get a reading.

To increase the efficiency of meter reading operations, the county will be implementing a new Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system. With AMR, meters can be read by simply driving through the neighborhood rather than going to each individual meter. A radio signal is sent from a service vehicle to the meter and back. It is then recorded on the vehicle computer and sent to billing.

Though not currently operational, the AMR system is installed on about 140 recycled water meters as part of a pilot project, which will be used to get operational experience prior to implementing the system on a larger scale.



BE WATER SMART CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

The Regional Water Efficiency Program is launching a new public education campaign, "Be Water Smart." The program, an effort to increase water conservation, is targeted to residents in Sacramento and Placer counties and features a new program logo, utility truck magnets, billboards, media relations and an informational flyer.

The billboards, scheduled to run through May and June, aim to reduce landscape overwatering since more plants are killed due to overwatering than underwatering. Look for the Be Water Smart message soon!



AGREEMENT SIGNED TO PROTECT THE LOWER COSUMNES RIVER

SCWA, The Nature Conservancy and the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the Management of Water and Environmental Resources with the Lower Cosumnes River. The Water Forum mediated the discussions leading to the MOA.

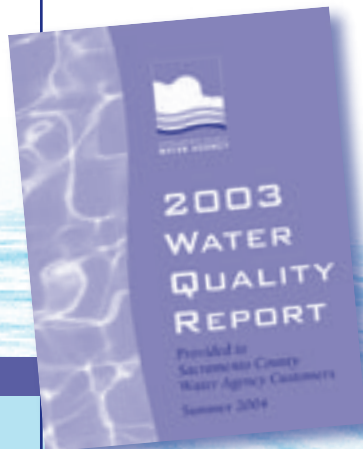
As stated in the MOA, the goal is to restore and maintain key functions of the Cosumnes River corridor while furthering conjunctive use—the process of balancing groundwater supplies and surface water supplies based on climate—in the agricultural areas between the American

and Cosumnes rivers as well as south of the Cosumnes River.

By helping these agricultural areas develop a viable conjunctive use program, the sponsors of the MOA hope to ensure the vitality of both the farmlands and ecosystems along the rivers. MOA participants hope that an enhanced conjunctive use program will reduce groundwater pumping and help improve flow patterns within the Cosumnes River during the fall and the advent of Chinook salmon migration. This increased river flow also could come, in part, from a proposal for SCWA to provide treated groundwater from the Aerojet site to the Cosumnes.

WATER QUALITY UPDATE OUT SOON

Keep an eye out for the SCWA annual consumer confidence report (CCR) coming your way soon. As it does every year, SCWA develops the CCR to inform and educate customers about the quality of their water. The CCR, required by the California Department of Health Services and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is a summary of test results conducted to detect contaminants in drinking water. SCWA regularly conducts more than 100 tests of its water supply annually at a cost of approximately \$100,000 a year. The water agency does this in order to let its customers know they receive high quality water that meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.



SMUD WATER SALE

SCWA has negotiated to buy 30,000 acre-feet of water from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. An acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons—enough water to fill a football field to depth of about one foot or provide enough water for one to two families a year.