



WATER Spouts

WINTER 2006

BE WATER SMART... WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM US!

The Water Agency provides many free programs and materials to make saving water simple and hassle-free.

FLUSH EFFICIENTLY

If you're thinking about upgrading your old toilet to a new, low flush model (1.6 gallons per flush or less), the Water Agency has rebate opportunities worth up to \$125.

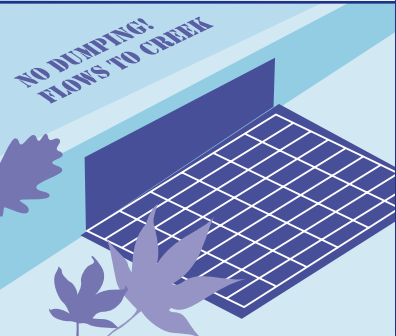
REBATES

- Water Agency customers are eligible for a \$75 rebate when you replace a two-gallon-per-flush or greater toilet with a more efficient model.
- Through a partnership with the Regional Water Authority and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District you also may be eligible for an additional \$50 rebate.

For more information on rebate requirements or other water efficiency programs, call (916) 875-4217 or visit us online at www.scwa.net.

FREE WATER WISE MATERIALS

Call (916) 875-1955 for free products, including "Rules of Thumb for Water-Wise Gardening" and "Landscaping Guide for Your Water-Wise Home." For homes built prior to 1992, we'll also provide water-saving devices including faucet aerators and low flow showerheads.



MAINTAIN YOUR STORM DRAIN AND PREVENT LOCALIZED FLOODING

During the fall and winter, leaves and other debris wash into gutters and clog storm drains. Debris has the potential to block storm drains, causing street flooding when it rains. Prepare for the rainy season by clearing gutters and storm drains of leaves and other waste to prevent flooding.

WATER AGENCY TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION PROGRAM

PROPOSED PROJECT WILL DELIVER FLUORIDATED WATER BY 2009

The Sacramento County Water Agency is submitting a grant application to fund the retrofit of 36 wells and groundwater treatment plants to provide fluoridated drinking water to Water Agency customers. If approved, the Water Agency would potentially deliver fluoridated water by late 2009.

State law requires all public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections to fluoridate their water supply as long as the project costs are funded by an external source such as grant funding.

"Some Water Agency customers in the Laguna area already receive some levels of fluoridated water," said Dave Underwood, senior engineer for the Water Agency's facilities operation and administration section. "Fluoridated water is delivered from the City of Sacramento into our system. During winter months, fluoride levels are closer to optimal levels when the Water Agency rests most of the wells in the Laguna area."

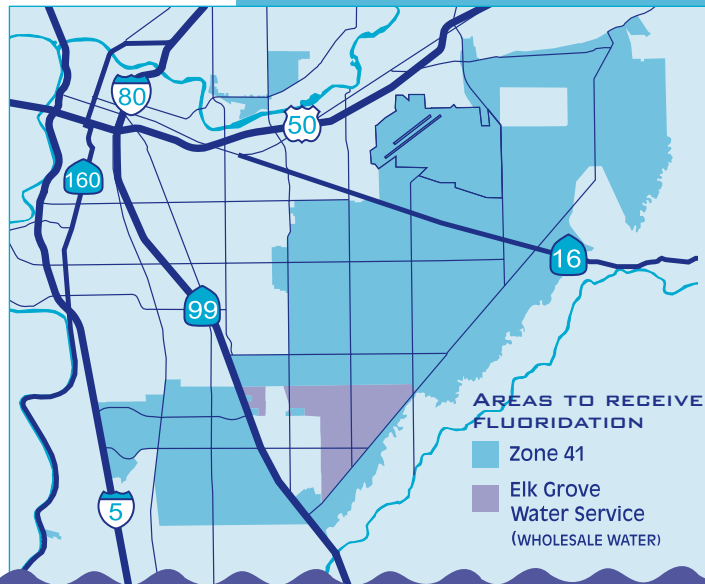
If funding is secured, the Water Agency will install the equipment required to deliver fluoridated water to its entire Zone 41 service area, with the exception of the Northgate Industrial and the Southwest Tract service areas.

FOR MORE ON FLUORIDATION:

- Obtain a project fact sheet by visiting www.scwa.net.
- Visit www.sackids.saccounty.net/programs/fluoridation or www.ada.org for health-related information about fluoridation.
- Call us at 875-RAIN.

FREEPORT PROJECT QUICK UPDATE

The Freeport Regional Water Project is on schedule to meet its goal of providing an additional surface water supply for Water Agency customers by 2010. In early November, the Freeport Regional Water Authority Board awarded the construction contract for the 185 million gallon-per-day intake facility, located on the Freeport Bend at the Sacramento River, near the Pocket Area. Site construction is expected to begin next spring 2007. For more information, visit www.freeportproject.org.



SMUD WATER SALE IS A WRAP

This past August, the Water Agency took a major step to assure a reliable long-term supply of high quality drinking water by completing agreements with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the assignment of 30,000 acre-feet per year (9.8 million gallons) of Central Valley Project (CVP) water to the Water Agency. As part of the agreement, the Water Agency paid SMUD \$3 million for this assignment, which will supplement its existing 15,000 acre-feet of CVP contract water. CVP contract water will be diverted at the Freeport Regional Water Project intake facility on the Sacramento River, and treated to drinking water standards at the planned Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant that is scheduled to begin operation in 2011.

FUTURE WATER STORAGE FACILITIES WILL BOLSTER WATER AGENCY'S RELIABILITY

The Water Agency has recently completed the construction of a five million gallon storage tank and groundwater treatment facility in the Vineyard Springs community. Construction has also begun on the first phase of a groundwater treatment and storage facility in the Laguna Ridge area, a planned community, south of Elk Grove Boulevard.

The Water Agency meets peak and emergency water demands by storing groundwater (and eventually surface water) in water storage facilities—these facilities are essential to ensure a reliable water system. Additional storage facilities will be constructed as needed to meet the future needs of our customers.

WATER SUPPLY AND ENERGY: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

Did you know that it takes 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) to supply 700 gallons of water to a customer?

With the average household using approximately 450 gallons daily, this equals more than \$3 bi-monthly per household to supply water. For commercial and business customers, which use nearly 2,000 to 4,000 gallons a day, it costs from \$16 to \$31 bi-monthly.



SACRAMENTO
COUNTY
WATER AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Managing Tomorrow's Water Today

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

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: Lisa at 875-1955
- Water Quality: Dispatch at 875-7246
- Billing: 875-5555

Visit us online at www.scwa.net.

Printed on recycled paper.

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QUESTIONS ABOUT READING YOUR WATER BILL?

Visit www.sacutilities.com for comprehensive billing information. On the site, you will find instructions for reading your water bill, information about making payments, answers to frequently asked questions, and more!

METER READING 101

LOCATE YOUR WATER METER.

Usually, water meters are located in your front yard, near the curb or sidewalk, inside a rectangular box in the ground near your property line. It is important to keep the meter box clear of landscaping and other obstructions.

Spiders love meter boxes! When reading your meter, be sure to wear gloves, especially if you need to clean off the register to see your water use.

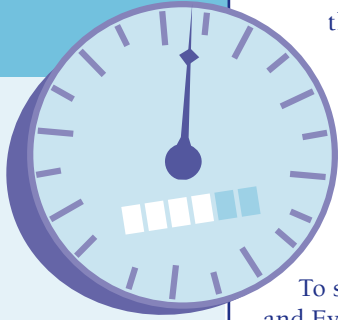
READ YOUR METER. Read from left to right and be sure to note how your meter measures water use. Water meters are read in cubic feet (CF) or gallons. Record the number and check your meter again in 30 days. Subtract the first reading from the second to determine your water consumption for the past month.

CALCULATE GALLONS USED.

If your water meter reads in cubic feet, multiply the recorded number by 7.48. This will tell you how many gallons you've consumed.

CHECK FOR LEAKS. The triangular-shaped low-flow indicator on your meter rotates when you are using water. To check for a leak, turn off all faucets, spigots and other water-using devices. If the low-flow indicator is still turning, you most likely have a water leak. Not all meters have the triangular low-flow indicator—you can also check for a leak by evaluating the round dial with a red hand. If movement is faster than any other dial, this would be a leak detection indicator. For assistance locating leaks, call (916) 772-2226 for a Water Wise House Call.

SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY. By finding and fixing leaks, you can save thousands of gallons of water a year! If you're paying a metered rate, this can save you money.



SURVEY SAYS: WATER WISE HOUSE CALLS ARE A HIT!

The Water Wise House Calls have been getting rave reviews! In a survey of residents who received the service, 90 percent of the survey respondents rated the service either a four or a five out of a possible five.

Get on board with a service that many Water Agency customers have already taken advantage of and schedule a **free** Water Wise House Call. In only an hour or two, our expert consultant will assess the performance of your irrigation system, check your indoor plumbing and address any challenges with programming your controller. House calls are available to all Water Agency customers including residential, commercial, industrial, government and schools.

To schedule an appointment, call our consultant, Irrigation Consultation and Evaluation (ICE), at (916) 772-2226, Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To prepare for the consultation, make sure your irrigation controller is easily accessible and jot down any water efficiency questions you have.

Para más información sobre el rendimiento del uso de agua en su casa y su jardín, lláme al 875-6916. Se le enviará un folleto por correo.

FALL INTO WATER EFFICIENT HABITS

With shorter days upon us, you should be scaling back your water use. During the fall and winter months, your landscape doesn't require much (if any) water. Even if it doesn't rain for a few days, your lawn will generally retain enough moisture to keep it healthy. Over-watering is the most common water waster and can actually damage your landscape.

Here are some other simple tips to increase your water use efficiency:

- **PURCHASE A RAIN SWITCH.** Rain switches automatically shut off your irrigation systems when it rains. These switches are inexpensive and available at most home improvement stores.
- **RESET YOUR IRRIGATION TIMERS.** Decrease your watering times by simply changing the amount of time you water your lawn. Some timers have seasonal adjustments to make this easy! And remember: If your controller has a back-up battery, replace it with a fresh one.
- **AVOID RUNOFF.** Don't "water concrete" by letting irrigation water run off your landscape onto the sidewalk and gutter. If you notice excessive runoff, adjust your sprinklers and/or reduce your watering time. To get a custom watering schedule for your landscape, call ICE at (916) 772-2226 for a Water Wise House Call.
- **USE WATER PROPERLY.** Instead of using a hose to clean sidewalks, driveways and patios, use a broom to sweep up debris and throw it away in a trash can. When you must use a hose for watering your landscape, be sure to use a shut-off nozzle.

