



### UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEW BILL!

The time is now! The first federally-mandated metered bills will be sent out to all customers in April and May. For customers who previously received flat-rate water bills, the new bill will look different.

We are committed to making the transition to metered rates as smooth as possible, but we also would like to remind our customers that attention to efficient use of water will benefit you in the long run. If you have questions about your water bill, call (916) 791-0115. You also can find answers to common questions by visiting our Web site at [www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org).

### PROPERTY TAX REVENUES

The state budget agreed to by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature this past July resulted in a two-year shift of property tax revenues from local agencies, including SJWD, to help offset the state budget deficit. Local agencies are seeing \$2.6 billion in revenues shifted to the state.

SJWD expects to lose about \$2 million over the next two years due to this state budget action. Through careful budgeting and cost reductions, the district is able to absorb the loss of funds for the two years without an increase in water rates. The passage of Proposition 1A should limit the shift of funds to the two year period.

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### DISTRICT TO DISCONTINUE BILLING TENANTS

Due to the increasing amount of time for district staff to coordinate billing and payments for rental properties, SJWD has determined that it is no longer feasible for the district to bill tenants as a courtesy to the owner. The district will continue to send bills to property managers if requested by the owner. Letters have been mailed to the appropriate parties with a detailed description of how rental properties will be affected by this change.

This billing change begins June 1 (or July 1, depending on which month you receive your bill) for all property owners/tenants. The decision is effective immediately if a change in tenant occurs. We appreciate your understanding. If you have any questions, please call customer service at (916) 791-0115.



### SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT SUPPORTS THE CELL PHONE FOR SOLDIERS PROGRAM

San Juan Water District is proud to announce that a cell phone drop off center has been established in the main lobby of the district offices for the Cell Phone for Soldiers Program. Any make or model cell phone with its attached battery will be accepted; please do not give us the cell phone accessories. Once collected, the cell phones will be recycled for cash to purchase phone calling cards for our troops.

As of April 2004, the program has raised more than \$250,000 dollars nationally and sent more than 4,000 prepaid calling cards to our troops overseas. The program was started last year by two Massachusetts teenagers who wanted to help buy calling cards for our soldiers serving in the Middle East.

For more information on drop off locations, please visit our Web site at [www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org). You also can learn more about the program by visiting the Cell Phone for Soldiers Web site at [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

Water



## DON'T LET WATER RUNOFF GET YOU DOWN

Spring has sprung, and it's time to begin planning for your garden and yard. Every year, runoff (or "gutter flooding") from driveways and lawns leads to water loss. You can reduce water use by taking a few simple steps to help curb runoff.

- **Avoid using unnecessary water** — instead of using a hose to clean your driveways and patios, try using a broom or rake.
- **Water the lawn, not the sidewalk** — if you see water running off the lawn or from the immediate area, turn your irrigation system off!
- **If you have an automatic irrigation system, make sure your timers are set for just the right length of time.** This will prevent excess water from flowing into the gutter.
- **Monitor the moisture of your lawn** — this can be done using a common household tool. Simply apply pressure to a screwdriver at various locations on your lawn. If it goes into the soil easily, then your lawn is still moist and does not need to be watered.

Need advice or assistance with your irrigation system or with setting your irrigation controller? We are happy to help you, free of charge. Just call us at (916) 791-2663.



## YOUR GARDEN CAN BE BEAUTIFUL AND WATER EFFICIENT

Are you thinking about planning a new garden or improving your existing landscape? Spring is the perfect time to begin your preparations. San Juan Water District's Water Efficient Landscape Garden is a living example of how to create a beautiful, low-maintenance and water efficient landscape.

Learn about hardscapes, plant grouping and simple landscaping tips at the Water Efficient Landscape Garden, located directly behind the district's offices. It's free to the public and open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Drip Irrigation Class

**When:** Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon

**Where:** SJWD, 9935 Auburn-Folsom Road, Granite Bay

**Why:** To provide an opportunity for do-it-yourself landscapers to learn more about drip irrigation techniques and maintenance. If you use a landscaping service, we encourage you to invite your landscapers to attend this free workshop.

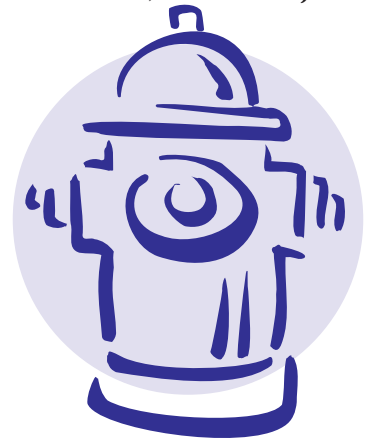
For more information, call (916) 791-2663.

## BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

SJWD board of director meetings generally take place every month on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the San Juan Water District. Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

- March 9 and 23
- April 13 and 27
- May 11 and 25
- June 8 and 22

For more information, visit [www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org).



## DISTRICT FLUSHING PROGRAM

This spring, don't be surprised if you see district staff flushing fire hydrants in areas of Sacramento County.

The district routinely performs maintenance to remove sediment accumulated in pipelines. Maintenance is essential to maintaining water quality, pressure and flow rates. By flushing the hydrants, district staff are able to check and repair hydrants and valves before they become a problem.

While we make every effort to avoid service disruptions, customers may notice a slight change in water color, odor or taste. You also may experience an increase or decrease in water pressure. These changes are temporary and will not harm you. Your water will meet the Department of Health standards at all times.

San Juan Water District is continually monitoring your water supply to ensure you receive the most pure and healthy water available. We appreciate your understanding and patience throughout this important and necessary process.



### SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

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[www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org)

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