

SUMMER WATER EFFICIENCY MADE EASY

As the temperatures rise during the summer months, so does outdoor water use. Watering lawns, filling swimming pools and summertime cleaning projects all play a part in increasing summertime water usage by as much as 400 percent in most households. Here are a few helpful water efficiency tips.

Dos and Don'ts

- **Don't let water flow into the gutter.** It wastes water and pollutes our local waterways by carrying silt, fertilizer and pesticides from yards into storm drains, which carry the contaminants into streams and rivers. If you notice water overflowing onto sidewalks or beyond the area you intend to water, turn off your sprinklers or reset your irrigation timers to allow the water to absorb into the landscape. Also, check the direction of your sprinklers to ensure they are watering only the lawn and landscape and not the sidewalk.
- **Do fix leaks.** Leaks can account for significant water waste if not repaired. One simple way to check for leaks involves your water meter. Shut off all water fixtures and then check your meter. If the leak detection dial is still turning, you probably have a leak. First, check your toilets, faucets and showerheads to make sure there are no leaks inside. (Visit www.h2ouse.org for tips on how to check for and fix indoor leaks.) Then, check sprinkler heads, valves and landscaping for signs of outdoor leakage. If that fails, contact our water conservation crew at (916) 791-2663.
- **Don't over-water.** Did you know that more plants die from over-watering than from under-watering? To avoid over-watering your lawn, test soil moisture with an inexpensive moisture meter from your local hardware store or by using a screwdriver as a soil probe. If the screwdriver goes in easily, you don't need to water.



CALL US FOR FREE HELP!
 Want to learn more about how you can be water efficient? SJWD offers landscaping classes, landscape irrigation reviews and other programs and services, all free of charge. Call us at (916) 791-0115 or visit www.sjwd.org for more information.

RATE INCREASE APPROVED

New Regulations Increase District Costs
 SJWD Board of Directors have approved a rate increase to help the district fund upgrades to the water treatment plant that will bring it in line with new, more stringent federal regulations. Overall, the rate increase will amount to an additional \$4.40 per month for the average residential customer, effective September 1.

In addition to helping cover the costs of treatment plant upgrades, the 12 percent rate increase will fund improvements to pump stations and reservoirs. All of these improvements allow the district to continue providing customers with a reliable, high-quality water supply.

The project will cost approximately \$13 million. Grant money from Proposition 13 funds through the Department of Water Resources will reimburse the district half the cost, helping keep the rate increase to a minimum.

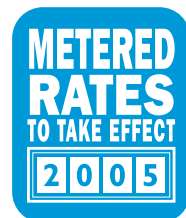
REMINDER: FLAT RATE CUSTOMERS START NEW BILLING PERIOD



As a reminder, SJWD is changing the way we bill flat rate customers to prepare for metered billing and make better use of our new customer information and billing software. This change, which takes effect with this bill, applies only to flat rate customers.

Flat rate customers will now be billed two months in arrears, similar to how metered customers are billed. The first bill will be lower than normal during the transition, but subsequent bills will resume to a more consistent two-month bill. Rates will not increase as a result of this transition, and there will be no change to billing dates or due dates. Please call us at (916) 791-0115 with any questions.

METER INSTALLATIONS COMPLETE



All flat rate customers will be transitioned to a metered rate due to a federal mandate

SJWD residential customers are now 100 percent metered to comply with a federal mandate. Although meter installations are complete, metered rates won't go into effect until 2005. To prepare for the deadline, SJWD has been reading meters throughout the district to gather water consumption information. At the end of the year, we will start showing a comparison of your flat rate to a metered rate based on your water consumption.

Take advantage of free programs like the rate comparisons to help you decrease water consumption and ease the transition to metered rates.



A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF WATER EFFICIENCY

SJWD's water efficient landscape (WEL) garden proves that water efficiency comes in many colors. This educational area displays helpful water management techniques and showcases drought-tolerant plants. The WEL garden is free and open for the public to tour Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located behind SJWD's offices at 9935 Auburn Folsom Road in Granite Bay.



SAFETY REMAINS A HIGH PRIORITY

For Our Customers

In 2002, SJWD contracted with engineering specialists to perform a vulnerability assessment to evaluate the district's security and emergency response procedures with the help of local and federal law enforcement authorities. SJWD was among the first three water agencies in the nation to receive a U.S. EPA grant for \$115,000 to conduct the vulnerability assessment. As a result of the assessment, SJWD recently has implemented a number of security improvements to help ensure a safe, reliable water supply.

For Our Employees

SJWD prides itself on the safe working environment for our employees. Employees continue to break safety records, completing four plus years without a lost time accident. At press time, the safety record at SJWD was 1,603 days. In addition, the district has been recognized by the American Water Works Association and the Safety Center Inc. of Sacramento for demonstrating excellence in effective employee safety through training and safety policy.

IT'S OFFICIAL: DISTRICT DELIVERS HIGH-QUALITY WATER

Once again, your water meets all federal and state health standards! Each year, SJWD is required to complete a consumer confidence report (CCR) to inform customers about water quality.

You should have already received your copy of the report in the mail. If you have any questions about the report or would like to request additional copies, please call us at (916) 791-0115. The CCR also can be viewed online at www.sjwd.org.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE ZOOMS THROUGH METER READS

SJWD is now using an emissions free electric vehicle for meter readings throughout the district's service area. The vehicle, developed by Global Electric Motorcars (GEM), will eliminate motor idling that results from stop-and-go driving and leads to high fuel emissions. An electric vehicle also allows the meter reader to do the job faster than in a standard vehicle, which means more meters can be read per day.

SJWD began using the vehicle in June, so you may have already seen it in your neighborhood. The vehicle travels up to 25 miles per hour and can go 35 miles between battery charges. (Our longest route is only 25 miles.)

We expect the vehicle to pay for itself in approximately one year through lower meter reading costs.

SJWD HOSTS FREE CLASSES

On Saturday, August 16, SJWD will host two classes at its offices on Auburn Folsom Road. The classes are free and part of a series of programs and services offered by the district to help customers become more water-wise.



Plant Demonstration, 9-10 a.m.

Rich Swanson from Bushnell's Landscape Creations will share planting tips, pruning techniques, water needs of various plants and information about drought-tolerant plant varieties.

Drip Irrigation, 10 a.m.-noon

If you've been thinking about installing a drip irrigation system, this class is for you. Landscape experts will demonstrate the installation process.



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