

METERING 2005 UPDATE:

Are you ready for metered billing?

It's no secret that all water bills will be based on a metered rate by spring 2005. If you are currently paying a flat rate, you may want to spend a few minutes now getting ready for the transition.

To prepare customers for metered billing, SJWD began providing comparisons on all flat rate bills late last year. The comparisons show customers how their flat rate measures up to a metered rate. The comparative information is based on water consumption during the same billing period as the flat rate bill.

The comparisons are cumulative and will eventually show one year of comparative data. Upon request, the district can offer you a full year's comparison now to help you estimate what your average yearly costs will be on a metered rate.

If your comparison indicates that you'll save money with metered rates, you can make the switch to metered rates early. If you are interested in obtaining more information about this or would like to request a full year's comparison, call (916) 791-0115 or e-mail jgagnier@sjwd.org.

Plan Ahead

The district offers a number of free programs and services designed to help you save water — and money. Call (916) 791-2663 to take us up on any of the following offers:



Landscape irrigation reviews: Our landscape expert will visit your home to explore ways you can save water now to prepare for metered rates in 2005. Services include soil analysis, irrigation system troubleshooting and setting a custom watering schedule.



Water-saving freebies: Receive low-flow shower heads, toilet tummies and kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators free of charge.



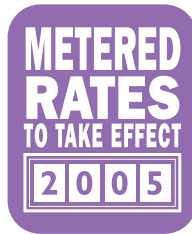
Water meter reading 101: We'll show you how to read your water meter and use it to track water use and detect leaks.



Rebates: If your home was built before 1992, get up to \$75 for every 3.5 gallon-per-flush (or larger) toilet you replace with an ultra-low-flush (1.6 gpf) model. Sacramento County residents also may be eligible for an additional \$50 rebate. Download an application at www.sjwd.org.



Leak detection: District staff will visit your home to investigate possible water leaks.



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

NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER JOINS DISTRICT

After an extensive three-month search, San Juan Water District selected Keith Durkin to serve as its new assistant general manager. Durkin, a professional engineer with more than 20 years experience in engineering planning and design, and project and program management, assumed his new duties in March.



Keith Durkin

Durkin, who has worked as an engineering consultant for SJWD for several years, said he is looking forward to continuing his relationship with the district in a new capacity. His duties will include overseeing program management of many upcoming capital improvement projects and assisting in overall district management. He also will help manage the transition to metered rates next year.

"I think it's important for San Juan to continue providing leadership and promoting cooperation within the region, and it's also important to continue providing our own customers with excellent service and high-quality water. I look forward to working with the district to accomplish both," Durkin said.

ASK BUD!

Why is my water pressure different in the summer than in the winter?

Occasionally, you may notice a drop in water pressure during the summer, generally between 5 and 10 in the morning.

Water use increases significantly during summer months, mostly because of outdoor watering. On a typical summer day, demand for water is highest in the morning when sprinklers are on and people are showering and preparing for the day. Morning water use in the summer can be eight to ten times higher than morning water use in the winter, which is why you may experience lower water pressure.

To help reduce water demand during these times, set your sprinklers to come on before 5 a.m. or after 8 a.m. Also, avoid watering during the heat of the day to prevent water loss due to evaporation.

If you have continuous water pressure problems that are not seasonal, please call Bud, the district's field operations manager, at (916) 791-7101.

Visit www.sjwd.org for more answers to your water-related questions.

WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR CUSTOMERS WITH PONDS

Ponds are beautiful and serene — but they can also use a lot of water. To educate customers about how to increase the efficiency of their ponds, SJWD is hosting a workshop in June. While the workshop is open to everyone, it will be most beneficial to customers who have ponds on their property.

Pond Owners: Rebates Available for Pond Improvement Projects

After the workshop, customers with existing ponds can schedule an appointment with a private consultant to learn how to improve their pond's water efficiency. Pond owners who cannot attend the workshop can also schedule an appointment by calling (916) 791-2663.

Through grant funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, SJWD will pay 75 percent (up to \$300) of the consultation fee. In addition, if any of the water-saving recommendations are implemented, SJWD will pay 50 percent (up to \$500) of the pond improvement costs.

Workshop Details

Date: Saturday, June 12

Place: SJWD, 9935 Auburn-Folsom Road, Granite Bay

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

RSVP: (916) 791-2663



Itinerary

9 to 11 a.m. — small ponds (less than one acre)

11 a.m. to noon — lunch and demonstration of pond-compatible plants

Noon to 4 p.m. — large ponds (larger than one acre)

WATER QUALITY REPORT TO BE DISTRIBUTED THIS SUMMER

Look for SJWD's annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) coming your way this summer. The report summarizes the results of more than 200 water quality tests to ensure safe drinking water. SJWD always meets or exceeds federal and state requirements for drinking water. To review last year's CCR, visit www.sjwd.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California State Parks are sponsoring the 5th annual Get Water Education Today (Get WET) event. Join San Juan Water District for this FREE family event and enjoy a day of learning and fun, including booths, food, prizes and exciting activities.

Get WET

- Sunday, June 6, 2004, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- CSUS Aquatic Center
- 1901 Hazel Avenue, Rancho Cordova

For more information, call (916) 989-7100 or visit www.usbr.gov/mp/arwec.



WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING CAN HAVE BEAUTIFUL RESULTS

When it comes to water use, landscapes can be real water hogs. Landscaping can account for up to 50 percent of all residential water use.

There are easy ways you can skimp on water use without skimping on beauty.

- **Avoid runoff.** Don't apply water faster than the soil can absorb it.
- **Water with the weather.** Adjust your irrigation system to water less in cool weather and more frequently during hot weather.
- **Group plants.** Plant those with similar water needs together.
- **Water only the target area.** Don't sprinkle sidewalks, driveways or the sides of the house.
- **Know your soil needs.** Examine it frequently, making sure it isn't too wet or too dry between waterings.
- **Maintain your irrigation systems.** Check them frequently for leaks, clogs or misdirected sprinklers and emitters.
- **Apply mulch.** Mulch cools the soil surface, reduces evaporation and prevents weeds.
- **Observe your plants.** Look for signs of moisture stress, such as droopy, off-color foliage. Symptoms of underwatering are very similar to those of overwatering, so examine the soil to determine if it's dry or moist. Adjust watering schedules, if necessary.

For more ideas about how to incorporate water-saving techniques into your landscaping, visit the district's newly renovated Water Efficient Landscape (WEL) Garden. Our WEL Garden features California native plants, herbs, perennials, an all-new pond garden, a turf substitute garden and other water efficient landscaping. It's free to the public and open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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