



San Dieguito Water District

Currents

A Water Information Newsletter Published for Customers of San Dieguito Water District • Fall 2014

Smart. Very Water-Smart!



Tyler James Rapp

Adults can learn a lot from children, especially the many fourth-graders whose water-smart posters are as brightly colored as they are insightful, creative and heartfelt. This year's three SDWD winners of the North County Water Agencies (NCWA) poster competition all attend Capri Elementary School. We thank our contestants and their teachers for helping spread the word about water conservation!

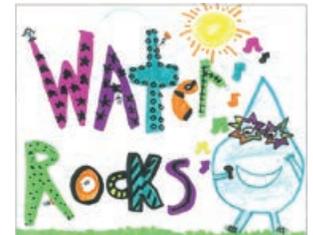
Each winner received a t-shirt and tote bag featuring their design, which depicts the theme, "Be Water Smart." Their artwork will be featured in the NCWA 2015 Water Awareness Calendar, available soon.

Congratulations to Tyler



Yuvely Beltrán

James Rapp (first), Yuvely Beltrán (second), Milena Cunningham (third), and to everyone who participated. You're all winners!



Milena Cunningham.

Drought Report: We Are Now in Level 2 Mandatory Water-Use Restrictions In Effect

Thanks to our customers' conservation efforts, SDWD water demand today is 15% lower than in 2007! With regional investments in water reliability projects over the two past decades, San Diego County is in much better shape to respond to the continuing drought than many areas in California. However, we all still need to do our part!

For More Information:

Drought:

www.sdw.org/drought

To report violations:

drought@sdwd.org or

760-633-2810

Encinitas, like all of California, is enduring its third consecutive year of dry hydrological conditions. In much of the state, 2013 was the driest year on record.

In response to the drought's growing severity, State and local agencies have taken actions first to encourage and then to mandate water conservation efforts. Beginning in January 2014, when Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency due to drought, Californians were asked to voluntarily conserve water and San Dieguito Water District (SDWD) declared a Drought Response Level 1 Condition (DRL1C).

In July 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted emergency regulations to deal with worsening drought conditions. On August 20, 2014, in response to these emergency regulations, the SDWD Board unanimously declared a Drought Level 2 Condition (DRL2C), enacting mandatory

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Lake Oroville is an important part of the State Water Project. Aerial views showing the Enterprise Bridge (Lumpkin Road) on the South Fork. Above photo taken this year. Photos: California Department of Water Resources



“Goodbye Grass, Hello Butterflies!”

Cardiff Park Homeowners Association (HOA) members are not magicians, but they recently turned grass into cash via a \$14,000 Metropolitan Water Authority rebate. The HOA removed 7,000 square feet of turf and transformed their landscape into diverse habitats that attract birds, butterflies and positive attention from residents of the approximately 80 homes.

Motivated after attending a free SDWD California-Friendly Landscape Workshop and galvanized by being several thousand dollars over budget on water costs, Cardiff Park HOA



JANET BECKER

Landscape Enhancement Coordinator Janet Becker enlisted the help of resident designer, Sandy Ohman who, with her passion for landscape, began educating residents, one by one, on what Becker calls the “Goodbye Grass, Hello Butterflies” possibilities.

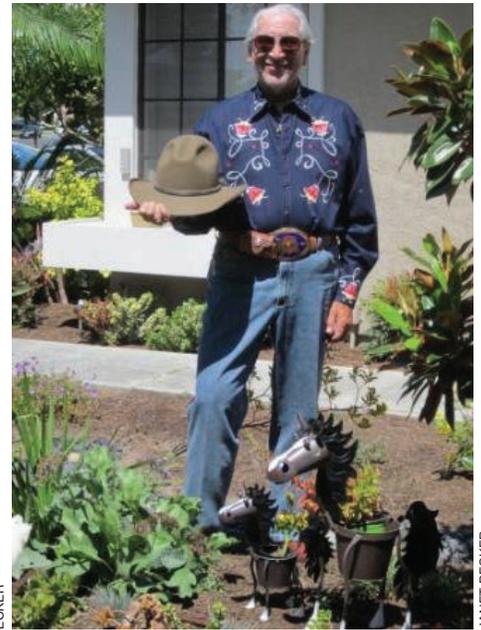
Owners were encouraged to add personal design elements to the overall palette that make the common maintenance areas both consistent and individual. Assistant Lynne Henkin helped with the extensive plant



JANET BECKER

inventory and dry stream installations. New Earth Enterprises facilitated installation and irrigation upgrades.

Sporting garden themes from western (horse, cowboy hat and boot planters) to far Eastern (a serene Buddha presiding over drought-tolerant pink flower wands) and more, 22 homeowners were guided by Ohman to re-envision their common



JANET BECKER

maintenance lawns, changing turf to non-grass natural wonders.

After visiting the site, SDWD staff reported, “We are inspired and will honor Cardiff Park at an SDWD Board of Directors meeting. We hope other HOAs follow their example.”

Becker is ecstatic with the results and plans to expand the program to other homeowners. She says, “Everyone is happy with their new habitat gardens – especially the butterflies as they glide from plant to plant!”

Systems Operations Division ... Ensuring High Water Quality

Water quality is a top priority of San Dieguito Water District. SDWD’s Systems Operations Division is responsible for monitoring and maintaining water quality throughout the system. The Division takes that responsibility very seriously, meticulously handling various efforts in accordance with California Department of Public Health rules and related regulations.

One important public health regulation is conformance with the Total Coliform Rule. (Coliforms are bacteria found in the soil, vegetation or surface water.) Staff members collect weekly bacteria samples at various locations throughout the District. These samples are taken to the R.E. Badger Filtration Plant in Rancho Santa Fe, where they are tested for total coliform. The tests indicate how well the filtering and disinfection process is working.

While collecting weekly bacteria samples, employees also monitor system-wide chlorine levels. They follow both a weekly and a quarterly dead-end line flushing program to ensure high water quality. Line flushing helps prevent water degradation at the ends of our lines and maintains chlorine levels for proper disinfection.

Operating with Your Safety in Mind

The Systems Operations Division also works to ensure proper maintenance of flows and pressures. Staff may physically check pressures by conducting a reading from on-site equipment such as

a fire hydrant or air release valve. We monitor our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and perform regular monitoring and maintenance of our 19 pressure-regulating stations. Since SDWD’s system is 100% gravity-fed, the stations exist to maintain manageable working pressures in lower-lying areas. Maintaining adequate flows and pressures assures all-important fire protection.

The Division also maintains a 7.5-million-gallon reservoir and a 2.5-million-gallon reservoir as well as two transmission lines that feed water from the Badger Plant to our system.

As you can see, there is a lot going on behind the scenes to make sure the water you drink is pure, safe and delicious!



SDWD employee collects a water sample for testing.

A Moving Tale of H₂O

Two hydrogen molecules + One oxygen molecule = Water!

Once upon a time, when only Native Americans such as the Kumeyaay and Luiseño lived in what is now San Diego County, they obtained water from streams and rainfall. They devised ways to collect water and crafted clay pots known as “ollas” to capture rain. They also built small dams to trap water and rock berms to direct water where it was needed.

As Spanish settlers moved into the area and used water for missions, many small springs dried up. To keep a water supply, they created a reservoir by building a dam on the San Diego River.

More settlers moved in and ranchos flourished, bringing trade and a growing population, and water needs increased. Sometimes it was shipped in barrels, brought in on horse-drawn carts to be sold by the bucket! Beginning in the late 19th century, larger projects, including dams and a flume to import water from nearby mountains, were constructed.

As in years past, we rely on precipitation for our drinking water. In our area, we do not have a large aquifer to capture underground water. Our growing population and modern life have caused us to seek water farther and farther away.

Today, our District relies upon Lake Hodges for a local water supply, but we import over half of the water our customers need. Where does it come from? Far away!

Much imported water originates in the Sierra snowpack. It is transported through the Sacramento Bay Delta, where the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River converge. The water travels south via the California Aqueduct. The journey is not short or easy. To get here, the water must be pumped more than 3,000 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains. Just as you would need a lot of energy to climb that high, it takes a lot of energy to pump the water!

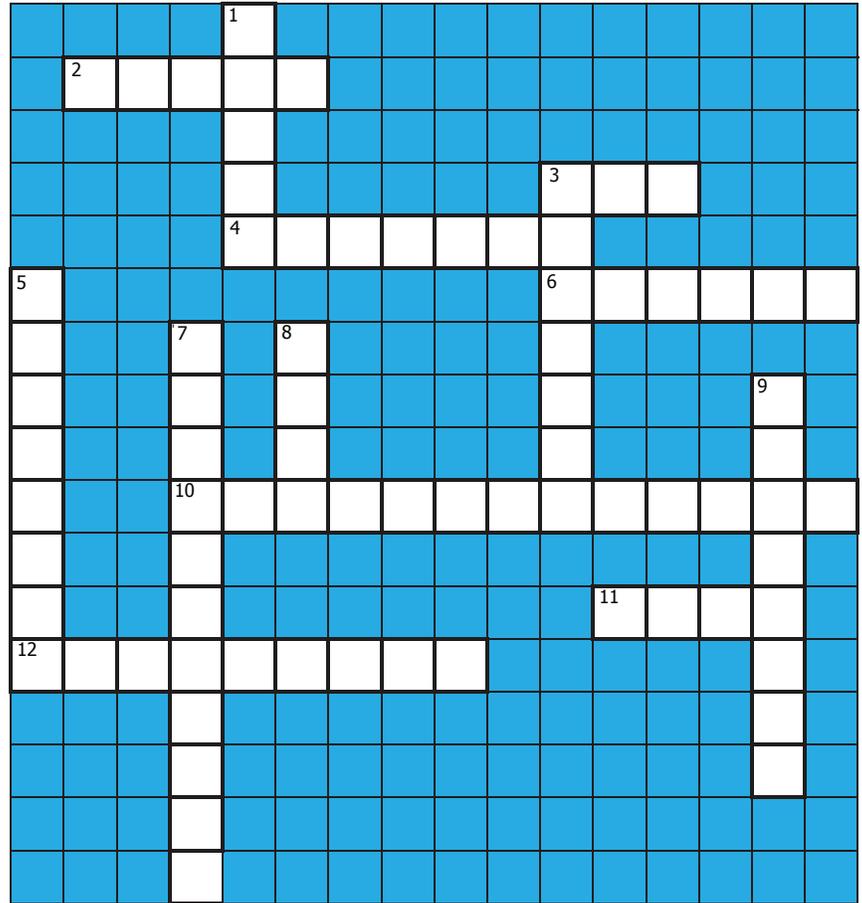
Once it arrives, the water is blended with water from the Colorado River and delivered to the treatment plant, along with the local water, where plant operators make sure it is safe to drink.

Our semi-arid (dry) climate has little annual rainfall. Over the past few years we have had less rain here and less snow in the mountains than usual, causing a drought, and making every drop more precious. Hotter temperatures have resulted in faster evaporation, meaning plants want more water. With over half the water used outdoors, it's important to rethink our landscapes. We can't overdraw from our water sources and be sure that they will be there in the future. So we can and must use water wisely.

The moral of the story: If we each want to live happily ever after, we must all conserve water!

Water Word Challenge

This puzzle is designed for students in grades 5-8. Read the article, keeping an eye out for key puzzle words. Then complete the puzzle by December 1, 2014 and email it to conserve@sdwd.org or mail it to SDWD Water Conservation, 160 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas, CA 92024 to win a prize! Please include your address.



Across

- Some of our water comes from the Colorado _____.
- A barrier to stop or slow the flow of water.
- Water stored in an underground rock formation.
- Water is made up of 2 molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of _____.
- Rain and snow are examples of this.
- To raise or push water up over the mountains, a _____ is used.
- In order for water to be safe to drink, it is sent to the _____ plant.

Down

- Melted snow from the Sierras is transported through the Sacramento Bay _____.
- An extended shortage, or period of drier than average weather.
- A channel for moving water over a distance, often by gravity.
- When liquid water changes to vapor.
- Some of our water comes from _____ Hodges, locally.
- Fallen snow that has massed together.

Top Four Finish!

Thank you to all our partners and customers who helped Encinitas capture a top spot in the 2014 Wyland Foundation's National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. The District finished fourth in its population category of 30,000 to 99,999. SDWD greatly appreciates the efforts of each customer to conserve our favorite precious resource.

Thank you for rising to the Challenge!

Drought Report

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restrictions effective August 30, 2014. To notify SDWD customers of the current situation, informational postcards were mailed and a webpage was developed.

Mandatory Water-Use Restrictions

Mandatory water-use restrictions are primarily aimed to reduce outdoor water waste. Certain restrictions also target usage at commercial establishments. For a complete listing of the mandatory water-use restrictions currently in effect, please visit www.sdwd.org/drought.

While we strive to work with and educate our customers about the mandatory restrictions, please be aware that non-compliance will result in notifications, written warnings, and, if unresolved, may result in fines.

Conservation Can Be Easy

SDWD customers have done an admirable job of conserving water. We thank you!

The best way to decrease water consumption is to reduce outdoor water usage, much of which constitutes wasted water via leaks, inefficient irrigation, over-watering and other easily-remedied problems. Since outdoor water use accounts for more than 50% of potable water use, adjusting irrigation systems and water-use habits can have a great impact.

Use EPA's simple tips: **Inspect** your system, **Connect** – check connections for leaks, **Direct** your sprinklers to water only target areas and **Select** an irrigation schedule to match the seasonal watering needs and the mandatory restrictions. By doing so, you will protect our potable water supply and the health of our environment.

For more tips on water conservation and information on programs, rebates, events and workshops, visit www.sdwd.org/conserv.



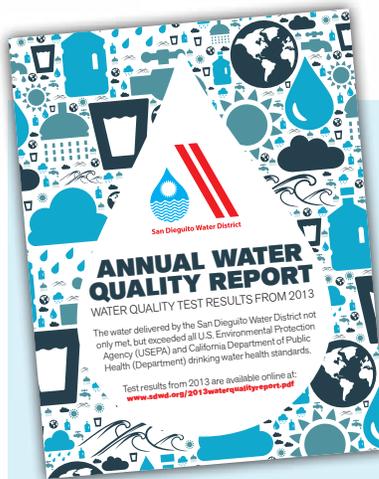
Save every day, every way.

Design Your Own Paradise

Turf replacement can be colorful and exciting. It's like having a brand new palette of possibilities. You might use design elements such as stones for a dry stream bed, or create mounds for a hilly or sloping effect. You can create an array of low-maintenance plants of many colors that make your property look fresh and beautiful all year long while creating habitat for bees, butterflies and other critters.

Find many great ideas in the e-Guide for WaterSmart Lifestyle www.watersmartsd.org.

Visit www.sdwd.org/conserv to take advantage of two concurrent turf removal incentive programs, with a total rebate of up to \$3.50 per square foot. Check out the handy comparison sheet to learn more.



District meets and exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Public Health drinking water health standards.

To improve environmental sustainability and reduce costs, our redesigned Annual Water Quality Report showing 2013 test results is available online at www.sdwd.org/2013waterqualityreport.pdf. You also may contact the District office to request a printed copy.

Turf Replacement Benefits

Replacing your turf offers benefits you can see plus some that are "hidden." All are valuable. You can:

- Reduce maintenance costs.
- Protect the environment by reducing runoff of fertilizers and gas emissions from mowers.
- Lessen hardscape damage and algae buildup from runoff.
- Reduce your water bill!

Water Quality Report Available Online

SDWD's Annual Water Quality Report provides a comprehensive snapshot of the quality of the water provided to our customers: what it contains, where it comes from and how it compares to State and Federal regulatory standards. We are proud to say that the water delivered by the

Connect with Us

- Visit our website at www.sdwd.org.
- Sign up for e-alerts at encinitasca.gov for direct inbox delivery of **Currents** and other District publications.
- Like us on Facebook @ San Dieguito Water District.
- Have your water bill sent directly to your email. Enroll at cashier@sdwd.org.
- Have recurring payments automatically deducted from your credit card or checking account and view up to three years of consumption and billing history. Sign up at www.sdwd.org.
- Have you accomplished a water-wise project, small or large, by yourself or with a professional landscaper? If you'd like your beautifully smart renovation to be featured in a future publication, please email conserv@sdwd.org.



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