

July 2016

To our Customers:

Stage 1 of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan has been rescinded. Great job while it was in effect!! The Statewide Drought Emergency is still on. Use water wisely; there's never enough to waste.

We had a near normal winter of precipitation and local reservoirs filled up this winter and have adequate storage to get the region into the winter rainy season. The State of California has allowed individual water agencies to determine their own level of needed cutbacks in water use based on local conditions following a standard protocol. Water agencies in the Russian River, including Sweetwater Springs Water District, have determined that our local supplies are adequate for this year. Therefore Stage 1 of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan can be called off for now as current conditions do not warrant it. See Exhibit A below for the District's rationale for self-certifying no need for reduced water consumption when compared to water use in 2013.

The drought isn't over everywhere in the State; many areas still have severe shortages. The State Water Resources Control Board is still continuing the drought emergency and many water uses are still restricted, including

- The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
- Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
- Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. Recycled water is not mandated, but encouraged for fountain use.
- Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation is prohibited.
- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
- Operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.

Because of these statewide restrictions, the only major change in the rescission of Stage 1 is that outdoor watering is no longer restricted to 3 days per week.

The District thanks its customers for the exemplary performance while water target (16% for the past year) was in effect. During that period District customers used approximately 24% less water than the same period in 2013.

Remember that water conservation is always a good idea. We are now in voluntary conservation program that encourages wise water use by all District customers. The District will continue with its capital projects aimed at reducing system losses, pay attention to water wasting in the District, fix surfacing leaks as quickly as possible, and look for other opportunities to reduce system losses.

The high-efficiency toilet direct install program may be available you – if not, rebates for toilets installed by the customer are still available. Check with the Sonoma County Water Agency - www.scwa.ca.gov/direct-install or call (707) 547-1918 for more information – or call the District office at (707) 869-4000.

Below are some tips that may help you save water year round:

- Find and repair leaks on your property and in your house. In particular make certain toilets and the irrigation system are not leaking. **Most water wastage in this District is due to leaks – and fixing leaks will save you money!**
- Check out your irrigation system. Tune it up regularly, including checking to make certain the irrigation controller is operating properly and that none of the irrigation and drip lines have developed leaks.
- Avoid over-watering – irrigation runoff is prohibited by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board).
- Reduce watering of ornamental landscapes and turf – one to two times per week should be sufficient to maintain your landscapes.
- Use a broom, not a hose to clean hard surfaces – the State Board has prohibited using potable water to wash hard surfaces.
- Use a bucket and a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle when you wash your car, or take your car to a carwash. Use of a hose without an automatic shutoff has been prohibited by the State Board.
- Cover pools and hot tubs to reduce evaporation.
- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer with full loads only.
- Prevent and report water waste (869-4000).
- Consider replacing old water using appliances with new water saving and energy efficient appliances. Use low flow showerheads and faucet aerators – available at the District office. Water conservation kits are also available.
- Check into the high-efficiency toilet direct install program now available to all District customers at www.scwa.ca.gov/direct-install, available through the Sonoma County Water Agency.
- **Find and repair leaks on your property and in your house.** It's a redundant message, but leaks are our biggest waster!

**Exhibit A. Water Supply Availability for Sweetwater Springs Water District
 Documentation to Support Self-Certification of Water Supply for the State Water Resources Control Board**

Prepared by Stephen Mack, General Manager
 June 24, 2016

Sweetwater Springs Water District has a license (No. 13791) to divert 2 cfs of Russian River underflow with a maximum annual amount of 1137 AF. The District diverts this water through two well fields, one each for the District's Guerneville (3 wells at El Bonita Well Field) and Monte Rio (2 wells at Monte Rio Well Field) Water Systems. See Table 1 for a listing of District wells at the two well fields.

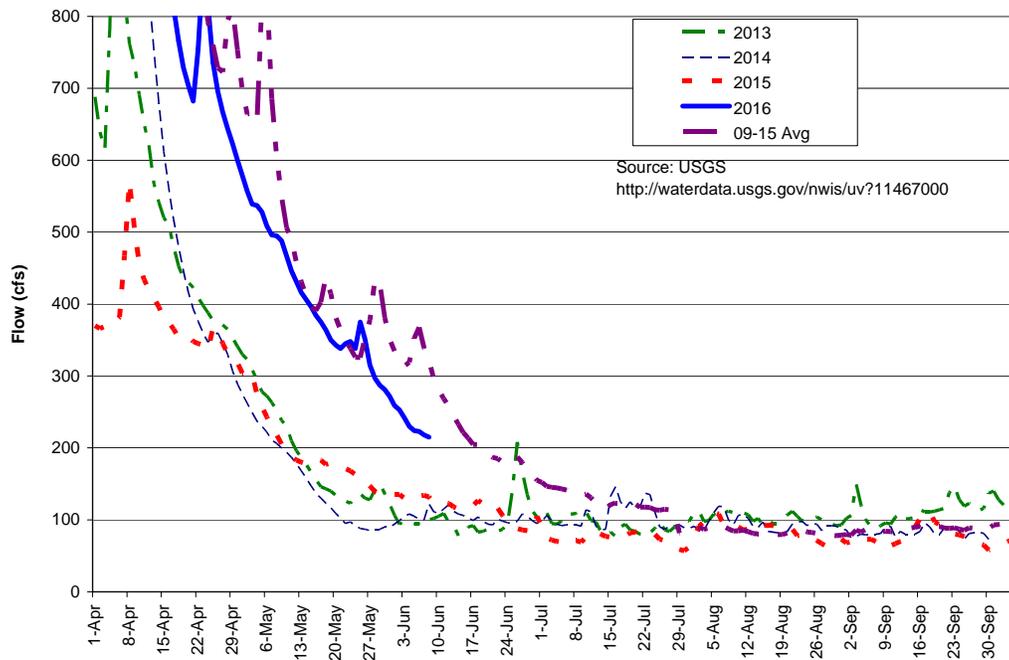
Table 1. Sweetwater Springs Water District Wells					
	Guerneville System			Monte Rio System	
Well Name and Number	El Bonita Well 4	El Bonita Well 5	El Bonita Well 6	Monte Rio Well 4	Monte Rio Well 5
Pumping Rate (gpm)	600	600	600	400	500
Pump Motor Size (HP)	75	75	75	50	75
Pump Depth (ft)	75	75	75	70	75
Well Depth (ft)	100	100	100	140	99
Well Yield (gpm)	600	600	600	400	500
Well Casing Material	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel
Well Casing Diameter (in)	12	12	12	16	12
Well Age (yrs)	22	22	22	30	22

The period of lowest flows in the Russian River is summer and that would be the constraint on SSWD diversions. The minimum flow of the Russian River

in summer is 70 cfs in accordance with the Biological Opinion for endangered and threatened salmonid species in the Russian River. This level of flow is supported by a Temporary Urgency Change Order that the Sonoma County Water Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers request from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) each year while revision of Decision 1610 is being sought by those agencies for a permanent change to the Biological Opinion flow levels. This analysis assumes those minimum flows will be approved by the State Board each year. If not, the minimum flows would be higher providing more flow downstream.

Assuming a repeat of the winters 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015, Russian River summer flow for 2017, 2018, and 2019 should look similar to those summers. Figure 1 below shows the summer flows at the Hacienda Bridge and demonstrates that flows in the summers of 2013 through 2015 were above the minimum flow requirement of 70 cfs. A repeat of the winter weather for those years should result in similar summer flow patterns.

Figure 1. Russian River Summer Flow at Hacienda Bridge, 2016 Compared to Earlier Years, and the 2009-15 Average, Updated June 9, 2016



Analysis done by the Sonoma County Water Agency supports this. They project an adequate water supply for their wholesale contractors based on a repeat of the 2013-2015 winters required by the State Board for analysis purposes. Downstream minimum flows are a requirement of their operations so it is reasonable to assume those minimum flows will be met based on these assumptions.

District Calculated Annual Potable Water Demand, according to the submittal form is 731 AF. Actual water diverted will likely be somewhat less than that. Table 2 below shows Russian River Supply, Calculated Annual Potable Demand and District water use for WY 2015 and WY 2016 (WY 2016 is estimated for the period June through September) compared to the available supply. This table demonstrates that the total water available to the District will be adequate for District water supply without any additional reduction in water use. Figure 1 shows that water available during the critical summer period will be more than adequate to meet District demand.

Table 2. Sweetwater Springs Water Supply Projection for WY 2017-2019					
Units in acre feet except where noted					
	WY 2015	WY 2016	WY 2017	WY 2018	WY 2019
Annual Russian River Supply (af)*	1137	1137	1137	1137	1137
Russian River Supply diversion(cfs) *	2	2	2	2	2
Calculated Annual Potable Water Demand (af)			731	731	731
Surplus (Deficit) (af)			406	406	406
Recent Actual District Annual Water Use (af)	665	652			
Reduction from Calculated Annual Potable Water Demand	-9%	-11%			
*Russian River Supply based on District Water Rights License 1137 AFY is approximately 1.6 cfs averaged for an entire 365 day year WY 2016 Water Use estimated for June-September using 2015 monthly amounts					