

April 22, 2021

To our Customers:

### **State Mandated Drought Emergency.**

We have had two consecutive years of record-low precipitation during the rainy season from October to May. Thus, local reservoirs have not filled, resulting in record inadequate storage. Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are at record low levels. The releases from these lakes into the Russian River are Sweetwater Springs Water District's source water. The District pumps our water from the underflow of the Russian River in Guerneville and Monte Rio.

Yesterday, April 21, 2021, Governor Newsom declared a drought emergency for Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. The State Water Resources Control Board may soon issue mandatory restrictions of water use due to the drought emergency, and many water uses may be restricted. This page will be updated with a list of mandatory restrictions once the Governor acts.

Because of these potential statewide restrictions, the District advises our customers to conserve water when possible. Remember that water conservation is always a good idea. We are now in a voluntary conservation program that encourages wise water use by all District customers. The District upgrades our water system each year to reduce system losses. We pay attention to any wasted water 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 to 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](http://www.scwa.ca.gov/direct-install) or call (707) 547-1918 for more information – or call the District office (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 sure 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 ensure the irrigation controller is operating correctly 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.
- Consider replacing old water-using appliances with new water-saving and energy-efficient appliances. Use low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Water conservation kits are available at the District office.
- **Find and repair leaks on your property and in your house.** It is a redundant message, but leaks are our biggest waster!