



Running Springs Water District August 2013 Newsletter



The Running Springs Water District is providing this Newsletter to our customers as part of our public outreach effort to share information regarding the District's ongoing activities, operations and services.

Water Conservation – Doing Our Part!

The Running Springs Water District provides our customers with local groundwater produced from District owned wells, purchased groundwater from Arrowbear Park County Water District and imported State Water Project water from Crestline Lake Arrowhead Water Agency. Replenishment of these water sources that are distributed by the District to our customers depends upon rain/snow fall. It is important to note that the 2012/2013 water year in Running Springs was below average with just over 21 inches of precipitation or 58.8% of average. The average water year precipitation is 36 inches.

Water awareness is an important part of water conservation and the following will help our community reduce water consumption and at the same time lower the water bill. Here are some useful tips to help with conservation of our valuable water resources:

Ten Outdoor Water Conservation Tips To Save Water And Lower Your Monthly Bill

1. Do not over water your plants. More plants die from over watering than from under watering. Make sure the soil is dry several inches down near the base of the plant before watering.
2. Deep soak each time you water. Watering deeply creates a healthy root system that is better equipped to withstand drought and heat.
3. Cut back on watering when runoff occurs. Allow moisture to soak into the ground by lowering the duration of watering.
4. Use watering cans whenever possible, especially when watering just a few patio plants. Watering with a hose may actually put more water on the patio than in the containers as you move from plant to plant.
5. Water early in the morning or late in the evening when temperatures are cool and winds are calm.

6. Check hose connections for leaks and repair them promptly.
7. Adjust your sprinklers so water is aimed directly at plants rather than driveways, fences or the street.
8. Install a drip irrigation system or soaker hose around trees and shrubs.
9. Using mulch around plants and trees will greatly slow the evaporation of water from the soil.
10. Grow drought tolerant plants, many which can survive with less than an inch of water per week, once established.

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information on ways to conserve water.

Please Think Before You Flush!

Basically, the only thing you should ever flush down a toilet is human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper. Here is a list of some things to keep out of the toilet:

- baby wipes & disposable diapers
- tampons & tampon applicators
- sanitary napkins
- cotton balls & swabs
- mini or maxi pads
- condoms
- cleaning wipes of any kind
- facial tissue
- bandages & bandage wrappings
- automotive fluids
- paint, solvents, sealants & thinners
- poisons & hazardous waste
- unused medications

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the District. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less.

(Continued on back)

Public/Community Outreach Presentation

As part of the District's annual planning and budget process, a public outreach meeting was held on Saturday, June 8, 2013. The public outreach presentation gives an overview of the District's core functions, outlines the many challenges the District faces and summarizes the budget process. The presentation can be viewed on the District's website.

Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget

The District's Board of Directors unanimously adopted the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Annual Budget on June 19, 2013. The budget is mainly a planning tool to help guide District staff. A total of ten (10) public meetings were held beginning in January 2013 to review, discuss and receive public comment and input on the District's rates, fees and budget. The Board of Directors and staff put a lot of thought and effort into developing a balanced budget. It was determined that certain rate adjustments were needed and were put in place on July 1, 2013 in order to:

- Offset the loss of revenue that has been received by the District for more than a decade from the County of San Bernardino for disposal of their leachate from the Heap's Peak landfill.
- Offset lower property tax allocations and increases in operating expenses related in part to electricity and fuel.
- Minimize the use of reserve funds for operating expenses in order to build capital improvement and replacement funds to the target levels set forth in the District's Cash Reserve Policy.

The budget was very carefully and thoughtfully prepared with the big picture, strategic and long range planning in mind. Rate increases were not the only measure used to generate a balanced budget. Other measures required to balance the budget included reductions in operating expenses where possible and deferral of nonessential activities and projects.

Copies of the Public Outreach Presentation and the final Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget document can be viewed by clicking on their respective links that are included on the District's website at: www.runningspringswaterdistrict.com. Hard copies can be requested in person at the District office, by

contacting the District at 909-867-2766, by mail or email at: info@runningspringswd.com.

Running Springs Fire Department

With below normal precipitation this past wet season, the 2013 fire season began much earlier. Unfortunately, the dry conditions will only worsen and lead to a higher fire threat. It is critical that homeowners are prepared for wildfires and remember "Ready, Set, Go!". Homeowners looking for more information on "Ready, Set, Go!" and on how to prepare themselves, their families and their homes for wildfire can visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

Thanks to all of you who have complied with the annual weed and hazard abatement program. Please continue to do your part in ensuring that your property has met the requirements of the Running Springs Fire Department. You can obtain additional information regarding defensible space guidelines at www.runningspringsfd.org or by calling 909-867-2630. Notices for those who are still not in compliance will be going out in the coming weeks.

For more information regarding District functions and activities, please visit the District's websites at:

www.runningspringswaterdistrict.com
www.runningspringsfd.org

or contact the District office by phone at 909-867-2766, or by mail at P.O. Box 2206, Running Springs, CA, 92382. In addition, we hold public Board Meetings at 9:00 am on every third Wednesday of the odd numbered months and at 6:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the even numbered months at our District Office located at 31242 Hilltop Blvd. (Highway 18) in Running Springs. Members of the public are always invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

If you would like to submit your email address to be included in the District's confidential database for future correspondence please do so using any of the contact information above.

"The Mission of the Running Springs Water District is to provide water, fire, emergency medical service, sewer, and other beneficial services to the community: The goal of the District shall be to do so with the highest level of integrity and ethical principles and in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible."