



Running Springs Water District March 2014 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. Due to the recent drought conditions, local groundwater production has been reduced resulting in increased costs to purchase more expensive imported water.

If these dry conditions continue and water supplies are more severely impacted, the District may need to implement more stringent water conservation measures.

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.

Budget Planning

Planning is currently underway for the District's Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget as well as the development of a five year financial and capital improvement plan. District staff and the Board of Directors are very carefully and thoughtfully planning the District's future with the big picture, strategic and long range planning in mind. Rate adjustments are anticipated 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.

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Fire Safety

With below normal precipitation this past wet season, the fire season is anticipated to begin 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.

Annual Weed Abatement

The Running Springs Fire Department will begin their inspections for the annual weed abatement program in June 2014. Please do your part in ensuring that your property has met the requirements of the Fire Department. You can obtain additional information regarding guidelines for weed abatement at www.runningspringsfd.org or by calling (909) 867-2630. Please watch for a weed abatement brochure in your April 2014 water bill.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)



Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the District. Never put grease, oil or fatty foods in your sink, drain or toilet and try to use your garbage disposal less.

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

Water & Sewer Availability Billing

Just as a reminder, the District's annual Water and Sewer Availability billing for unimproved property will be mailed out the beginning of May 2014 and will be due no later than July 1, 2014. If payment is not received by July 1, 2014, the delinquent bills will be placed on the San Bernardino County property tax roll.

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 month 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.

The District now accepts credit card payments in person at the main office. Credit, debit card or electronic check payments may also be made online at: <https://ipn.paymentus.com/otp/stde/rswd> or by calling Paymentus at 877-506-3112.

"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."