

SONOMA VALLEY COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT **NEWS**

Help beat the drought Water saving rebate programs available

Your sanitation district would like to remind you that our region is still in a drought. The drought impacts everyone's water supplies. In particular, the drought has brought water supply capacities in both of our region's two primary reservoirs, Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino, to near historic lows. The drought is also impacting local groundwater resources. Without knowing when sufficient rainfall will come, we all must do our part to help save every drop of water.

As a sanitation customer, you have some water saving tools at your finger tips! Please take advantage of the following water saving programs:

Clothes Washer Rebate – Receive up to \$50 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all Energy Star Most Efficient listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology. A \$75 rebate may also be available from PG&E. Visit www.wateroff.org for more information.

Toilet Rebate – Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models. How to Participate: Rebates on high-efficiency toilets are available on a first-come, first-served basis while funding lasts. Visit www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates for more information.

High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program

A limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits, including toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and showerhead replacements, are offered at no cost to eligible properties. Download rebate application forms and learn more at www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install or call (707) 547-1918.

The District Budget and Your Sewer Bill

The budget year starts on July 1 of each year and runs through June 30 of the following year. For non-residential customers and residential customers with no public water connection the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 flat rate fee is \$852 per year per "equivalent single-family dwelling" (ESD).

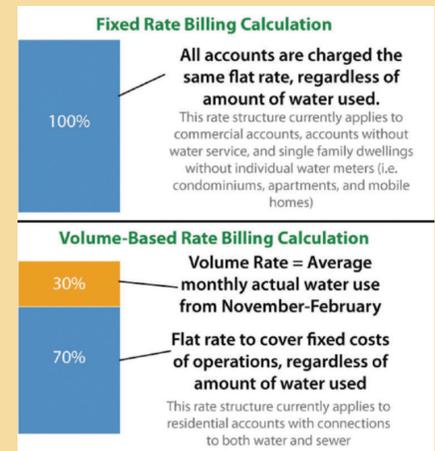
Residential customers with a public water connection are charged according to a volume-based rate structure.

Under the volume-based rate structure, thirty percent of the sewer bill is based on the amount of household water used during the wettest winter months, from November through February when customers are less likely to be using water outside for irrigation. The remaining seventy percent of the sewer bill is based on a fixed cost to cover operations and maintenance

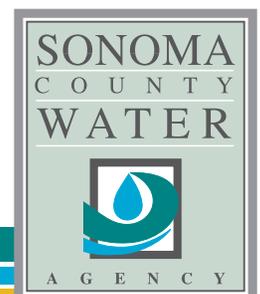
expenses related to keeping the sewage collection system and treatment facility updated to meet public health and environmental regulations. A volume-based rate structure rewards District residential customers who use less water and create less wastewater for treatment.

The Fiscal Year 2014/2015 fee for residential customers with a public water connection is \$596 per year per ESD plus \$4.82 per thousand gallons of water based on winter water usage.

Reduce winter water use now to lower sewer bill, take advantage of District rebate programs. Ratepayers with questions may contact Michael Gossman, Division Manager - Administrative Services, at (707) 521.6207 or Michael.Gossman@scwa.ca.gov.



www.sonomacountywater.org/SVCSD



Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
 c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
 404 Aviation Blvd.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

| CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO SEE HOW EASILY YOU CAN DECREASE YOUR WATER USAGE | SAVINGS IN GALLONS PER DAY |
|--|----------------------------|
| Reduce each irrigation cycle by 1-3 mins. | 100-165 |
| Don't leave water running when rinsing dishes | 5-10 |
| Turn off water when brushing teeth | 4 |
| Shorten showers | 10 |
| Fix leaky toilets | 30-50 per toilet |
| Fix leaky faucets | 15-20 per leak |
| Replace older, inefficient clothes washers | 20-30 |

Free Public Tours

RUSSIAN RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TOUR

Attend a free tour of the Russian River water supply system and see how naturally filtered drinking water is pumped and delivered to more than 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties.

This free half-day tour is offered:

- Saturday, September 20 at 9 a.m. in English
- Saturday, October 25 at 9 a.m. in Spanish

SEE WHERE AND HOW YOUR SEWAGE IS TREATED

Your sewage is transported underground through pipes to the Sonoma Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant where it is treated and reused as recycled water. See for yourself how this engineering marvel happens on a free tour. This 90 minute tour is offered Saturday, October 18, at 11 a.m. in Spanish and English.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

www.sonomacountywater.org/tours

For more information, contact Ryan Pedrotti, Water Education Programs Specialist, at (707) 521-6209 or ryan.pedrotti@scwa.ca.gov

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in Development

Public input is being solicited in Local Hazard Mitigation planning efforts for the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District. The first phase of the Local Hazard Mitigation project for the District was a natural hazard reliability assessment to identify potential damage to existing infrastructure from local hazards including earthquakes, wildfires, landslides and floods. Findings of the assessment were presented at the Sonoma Valley Citizens advisory committee meeting last July. The second phase of the project is to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that incorporates strategies to minimize damage from those disasters. A draft Plan and accompanying public comment period is anticipated this fall. For more information visit www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation or contact Project Manager Curran Price at curran.price@scwa.ca.gov or (707) 524-1179.

Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community

www.sonomacountywater.org/SVCSD

