

Water Words

September 2014 Newsletter
Fall Edition



Stage II Mandatory Water Conservation

Begins October 1, 2014

Presidents Message

Dear Shareholders/Customers,

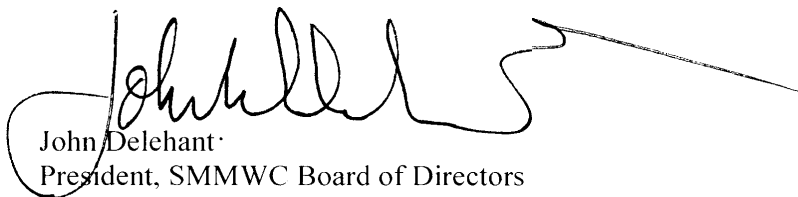
You will recall in our January 2014 newsletter we advised "Given our continuing drought conditions, your Board has had to implement Stage I – Voluntary Conservation requesting all of us to voluntarily cut back usage 10%." Well, later that month Governor Brown enacted a State wide drought policy requesting Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%. Over the next few months Californians reduced their water use by only 4% State wide. In an effort to meet the Governor's call to action of a 20% reduction in water use statewide, the State Water Resources Control Board on July 15, 2014, adopted Emergency Resolution No. 2014- 38, which mandates minimum actions by water providers to curb water waste and conserve water. In compliance with this action and San Luis Obispo County regulations, **your Board has been required to issue SMMWC Resolution 2014-001, Implementing Stage II Mandatory Water Conservation Measures per SMMWC's Water Conservation Policy (Resolution No. 2009-001).**

Resolution 2014-001 requires a Mandatory 20% reduction in overall water usage. The 20% reduction is achieved by reducing Residential use by at least 10%, Commercial use by at least 10%, and Irrigation use by at least 50%.

It should be noted that the Board of Directors will consider additional conservation measures if the 20% overall reduction in water use is not achieved.

The following is a brief explanation of our Stage II Conservation policy and guidelines that were used to establish the Stage II conservation rate structures and usage tiers. As you read through this information please remember that all of us at your water company are hopeful that by working together as a community, this stage will accomplish our required 20% reduction and with a little help from Mother Nature this winter, we will all emerge from this having learned and practiced water conservation successfully.

Sincerely,



John Delehant
President, SMMWC Board of Directors

Stage II – Mandatory Conservation Overview

Per the SMMWC Conservation Policy, new Conservation Rate Models (Tiers) and Usage charges (cost per 100 gallons) were established by the Board using the following guidelines:

- Reduce Water Usage in compliance with State mandates
- Fairness
- Uniqueness of Neighborhoods, Commercial Businesses and Irrigation areas
- Minimize policing by staff
- Ease of Implementation with our billing system
- Establish the new Rate Models to reward Conservation efforts while encouraging efficient water usage for all users.

Using these guidelines, SMMWC established the following Conservation Rate Categories, Rate Multipliers and Base Usage Tiers. These Categories, Rate Multipliers and Base Usage Tiers are the same for Residential, Commercial and Irrigation customers

<u>Rate Category</u>	<u>Rate Multiplier</u>	<u>Usage Tiers</u>
Conservation	x0.90	< Base
Base Rate	x1.00	Base
Inefficient	x1.20	For the next 1000 gals
Excessive	x1.50	For the next 1500 gals
Wasteful	x2.00	For the next 2500 gals
Negligent	x3.00	For 5000 gals and over

The Base Rates for each type of Customer are:

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Monthly Usage</u>	<u>Base Rate (per 100 gals)</u>
Residential	< 5500 gal	\$0.850
Residential	> 5500 gal	\$1.004
Commercial	< 10000 gal	\$0.850
Commercial	> 10000 gal	\$1.004
Irrigation	all	\$1.004

In order to establish the Base usage, Staff compiled a 2 year monthly usage history for each Residential, Commercial and Irrigation service meter. From this data, monthly averages for each Residential neighborhood, Commercial and Irrigation service were established. The following chart is for the Residential Customers. The Base Target includes the required 10% reduction.

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>2 year monthly average Base Usage(gal/mo)</u>	<u>Conservation Base Target(gal/mo)</u>
Pelican Point	3,240	2,900
Indian Hill	4,715	4,200
Mallard Green	2,628	2,400
Avila Valley Orchard	5,302	4,800
Skylark Meadows	3,636	3,300
Heron Crest	6,364	5,700
Heron Crest (custom lots)	12,000	10,800
Quail Canyon	4,673	4,200
Kingfisher Canyon	5,684	5,100
Silver Oaks	7,675	6,900

Due to the numerous individual accounts, Commercial and Irrigation Customers should contact the SMMWC office for their Base Usage and Base Target numbers.

Stage II Conservation Additional Prohibitions

Resolution 2014-001 conditions the use of potable water as follows:

- Use of potable water for irrigation of landscaping, turf areas and gardens shall occur only **between the hours of five p.m. and nine a.m.** and must utilize hand held hoses, drip irrigation or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system;
- Use of potable water for planting of turf and other new landscaping unless it consists of low water using, drought tolerant plants;
- Use of potable water for soil compaction or dust control purposes in construction activities is prohibited;
- Use of Fire Hydrants shall be limited to fire suppression and/or other activities immediately necessary to maintain health, safety and welfare of SMMWC customers/shareholders;
- Operation of any ornamental fountain unless the water is re-circulated;
- Emptying and refilling swimming pools or spas except to maintain water levels;
- Water service to patrons by any eating establishment unless specifically requested.

Stage II Water Conservation Rate Models:

- The Rate Model for Neighborhoods whose 2 years monthly average base usage is less than 5,500 gals and Small Commercial:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rate Multiplier</u>	<u>Cost per 100 gal</u>	<u>< Base Usage Charge</u>	<u>> Base Usage Charge</u>
		0	\$41.66	\$41.66
Conservation	0.90	0.765		
Base Rate	1.00	0.850		
Inefficient	1.20	1.020		
Excessive	1.50	1.275		
Wasteful	2.00	1.700		
Negligent	3.00	2.550		

- The Rate Model for Neighborhoods whose 2 year monthly average base usage is greater than 5,500 gals and Large Commercial and Irrigation.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rate Multiplier</u>	<u>Cost per 100 gal</u>	<u>< Base Usage Charge</u>	<u>> Base Usage Charge</u>
		0	\$41.66	\$41.66
Conservation	0.90	0.903		
Base Rate	1.00	1.004		
Inefficient	1.20	1.205		
Excessive	1.50	1.506		
Wasteful	2.00	2.008		
Negligent	3.00	3.012		

SMMWC Water Usage History

Over the past 5 years, the overall water used by SMMWC Customers has steadily increased.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Water Use (gals.)</u>
2010	55,242,873
2011	54,469,352
2012	55,667,113
2013	61,260,706
2014	60,408,287 (projected usage to 12/31/14)

Water Saving Tips:

- Fix leaky toilets – leaky toilets can waste 200 gallons of water a day
- Install low-flow showerheads – they use a third less water than regular showerheads
- Run the dishwasher instead of washing by hand – uses less water and could save up to \$40.00/year
- Keep a container of drinking water in the fridge – you won't have to use the tap every time you want a drink of cold water
- Use cold water for laundry – you'll save money because you're not paying to heat the water
- Use the high-speed spin cycle – It removes more water so laundry won't take as long to dry
- Only water your lawn when needed – if you leave footprints when you walk on the grass, it's time to water
- Check the aim of sprinkler heads – water your lawn/plants, not the driveway or the house
- Install a pool cover – A cover will reduce evaporation and save up to 1,000 gallons of water/month
- Keep pool filters clean – this will prevent backwash and reduce stress on the filter
- Use a bucket to wash your car – you can save 150 gallons of water every time you don't use the hose or go to a car wash where the water is recycled.
- Install porous walkways and patios – they keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff