

pipeline



WINTER 2010

A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR 2010

The water supply forecast for 2010 continues to be guarded. Recent surveys of the Sierra snowpack show precipitation levels at 85 percent of normal. While a good start to the season, should these figures stay about the same through the spring, it means California will be in its fourth straight year of drought.

In addition to Sierra snowpack levels, pumping restrictions from the California Bay Delta continue to limit imported water from Northern California. Recurrent limitations also pertain to the water supply from the Colorado River after eight years of drought. New challenges are also on the horizon as the Quantification Settlement Agreement, an agreement that settled years of litigation over water rights on the Colorado River, has recently hit a significant legal snag.

However uncertain our water supply situation may seem, there is a silver lining. The proactive efforts of local water agencies offer optimism as we strive to diversify water supplies. This year, for instance, the San Diego County Authority will receive 80,000 acre-feet of water from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) as the result of efforts to line old earthen canals in the Imperial Valley. The region will also receive another 70,000 acre-feet of water from a separate agreement with IID. These new long-term sources of water represent a significant supply for our area.

Otay Water District has made significant progress in diversification of local resources as well. We are moving forward on new programs to tap groundwater supplies in Rancho Del Rey and the Middle Sweetwater River; efforts that could sustainably yield hundreds of acre-feet of water every year. The district also launched a new program to convert existing multi-family developments from potable water irrigation systems to recycled water. Under this new program, the district will reimburse homeowner's associations 50 percent of the on-site conversion costs. In communities where recycled water is available for landscape irrigation, this program reduces potable water use while maximizing the use of recycled water.

This past year, customers of the Otay Water District were able to avoid mandatory conservation because of their outstanding voluntary water conservation efforts and their support for recycled water projects. Thank you for your efforts and strong support of the district's development of sustainable local water supplies. The coming year will continue to pose water supply challenges for everyone in San Diego County and we encourage everybody to continue to do their part.



Otay Water District SUPPLY STATUS

LEVEL 1 - SUPPLY WATCH

Voluntary measures to stop waste.
Repair leaks promptly. Wash cars with a
bucket and shut off nozzle.

LEVEL 2 - SUPPLY ALERT

Mandatory water use restrictions.

LEVEL 3 - SUPPLY CRITICAL

No new construction, associations or development.
Strict limits on water used for irrigation
and non-public health purposes.

LEVEL 4 - SUPPLY EMERGENCY

Stop all landscape irrigation.
No new construction, associations
or development.

The Otay Water
District continues a
Level 1 Supply Watch
for its service area.

The Otay Water District thanks its customers for conserving water and their support of recycled water. Because of your strong efforts to conserve water and investments in recycled water infrastructure, Otay customers are avoiding strict mandatory conservation measures. Thank you for your support and keep up the good work!

Water Smart Plant Fair • Saturday, March 20, 2010-9am-3pm



Celebrate spring at the Water Smart Plant Fair where vendors from throughout southern California will be selling drought tolerant plants perfectly suited to your San Diego garden. A bounty of choices will include native plants, water smart perennials, succulents, trees, shrubs, herbs, and more.

Visit our "Ask the Experts" areas to get information from landscape designers, Master Composters, and other plant and gardening specialists who will help you cultivate your green thumb!

Entries and information for the Seventh-Annual Water Smart Landscape Contest will be available. Admission and parking are free. For more information visit www.thegarden.org.

Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019 • 619-660-0614



Bill Payment Options

The Otay Water District offers new, fast and convenient ways to pay your bill.

CheckFreePay locations: Customers can pay their bill at CheckFreePay locations, including Wal-Mart stores throughout the county. Customers have the option for 3 Day or Next Day payment delivery. Fees for this service range in cost from \$0.88 to \$2.50. For more information and to find a location in your area, please visit www.checkfreepay.com or contact an Otay Customer Service Representative at 619-670-2777.

Pay by Phone: Debit and credit card customers can pay their bill 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Call us at 619-670-2777. Have your Otay account number ready when using this feature. In addition to VISA and MasterCard debit/credit card payments, our credit card service accepts Discover and American Express. A \$4.80 fee is applied to credit card transactions.

Web Payments: Web payments can be made online 24/7 at no charge. Visit our website at www.otaywater.gov and click on Pay Your Bill Online. We accept VISA and MasterCard debit and credit cards.

Auto-Payment: Using the automatic payment service, your bank account is debited each month on a pre-arranged date. Customers using this service still receive their monthly statement to verify consumption and calculations prior to their account being deducted. This option eliminates the possibility of late payments, and alleviates concerns when taking vacations. An Auto-Payment application form is available online at www.otaywater.gov and click on Customer Service.

Secure 24-Hour Drop Box: A 24-hour drop box is available to our customers at our business office located at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley.

Postal Annex: Payments can also be made at the Postal Annex in the Terra Nova Shopping Center, 374 East H Street, off I-805 in Chula Vista. Call 619-585-7400 for business hours. There is a \$1.50 fee for this service.

Pay by Mail: You can mail your payment directly to the Otay Water District at P. O. Box 51375, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5675.

Save Water and Money!

Smart Controllers - \$200 rebate

Smart irrigation controllers adjust your watering schedule automatically based on local site conditions and can lower your water use by approximately 14,000 gallons per year. Larger rebates are available for sites with 1+ acres of irrigated landscape.

Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles

(with pressure regulating heads) - \$4 per nozzle
Rotating nozzles can eliminate runoff and use 20% less water than conventional spray heads by applying water more slowly and evenly.

High-efficiency Washing Machine - \$125

Save with a new high-efficiency washing machine. High efficiency clothes washers typically use an average of 40% less water and 55% less energy. Clothes also require 50% less drying time.

High-efficiency Toilets - \$50 rebate

High-efficiency toilets use an average of 1.28 gallons per flush, or 20% less than a toilet manufactured after 1994.

Rebates are available until **May 31, 2010** or until funds are depleted. For more details and lists of qualifying products, visit www.socalwatersmart.com or call 888-376-3314.

Take a Class at the Water Conservation Garden

Classes cover a wide variety of topics from landscape design, lawn removal, planting techniques, fire wise gardening, irrigation systems and composting for the casual gardener or the landscape professional.

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Register online at www.thegarden.org or by calling 619-660-0614.

OTAY WATER DISTRICT - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm in the Board meeting room. The public is encouraged to attend at 2554 Sweetwater Spring Blvd., Spring Valley, CA.

President
Jaime Bonilla, Division 2
jbbonilla@otaywater.gov

Vice-President
Jose Lopez, Division 4
jlopez@otaywater.gov

Treasurer
Gary Croucher, Division 3
gcroucher@otaywater.gov

Boardmember
Larry Breitfelder, Division 1
lbreitfelder@otaywater.gov

Boardmember
Mark Robak, Division 5
OtayWater@cox.net



Nan Sterman's

Plant Soup Inc.

CONTEST



Seventh-Annual Water Smart Landscape Contest More Beauty with Less Water

Win a \$250 prize for your beautiful and water wise landscape. For more details, please call 619-670-2730, or visit www.landscapecontest.com to view previous winners, review the contest rules, and download an online application.

Application deadline: April 12, 2010

For more class information and prices visit www.thegarden.org

Tuesday, February 23, 6:30-8:30 pm

NEW! Create a Butterfly Garden with California Native Plants

Learn how to attract butterflies and create a sustainable butterfly habitat in your own yard. Greg Rubin of California's Own Native Landscape Design Company will teach you how to design a butterfly garden using beautiful, drought tolerant California native plants. \$20 Members \$30 Non-Members.

Saturday, February 27, 2-4 pm

Tune-up Your Irrigation and Dive into Drip!

Kathleen Eagle, Director of Ornamental Horticulture at Barona Resort and Casino, teaches you how to tune up your existing irrigation to make it Water Smart. Drip irrigation, tips for retrofitting, setting your irrigation clock, and when and how long to water your landscape. \$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members.

Saturday, March 6 9:00-noon

A New California Garden

Landscape Designer Linda Whitney shares her process for creating her own award-winning Water Smart landscape. Learn the steps from design, irrigation, plant selection to maintenance principles. \$20 Members \$30 Non-Members.

Lovely Combos Low Water

On Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons, I answer the WaterSmart Pipeline, a low water gardening question and answer hotline sponsored by the Water Conservation Garden. People call with questions about lawns and irrigation and all kinds of things.

A typical question starts with, "what should I plant..." I chuckle because every garden and every location is different. Since I can't see their garden I ask questions to get a mental image of how big the space is, what its shape is, how much sun it gets, what surrounds it and so on. Then, I start thinking about my favorite plant combinations. In this column, I'd like to share some of those with you.

One of my favorite springtime displays for sunny locations includes bright orange California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), buttery yellow Mexican tulip poppies (*Hunnemannia fumariifolia*), royal purple autumn sage (*Salvia muelleri*), sky blue germander sage (*Salvia chamaedryoides*) and brilliant magenta South African daisy (*Arctotis 'Big Magenta'*).

These plants grow to be about 18 to 24 inches tall. They tend to grow wider than tall, so plant them in groupings of three (three of a kind together) and they will weave together to form a yellow, orange, pink, and purple springtime tapestry.

Even out of bloom, this combination makes a lovely display of foliage; South African daisy has wide gray leaves, Mexican tulip poppy has feathery, ice green leaves, and royal purple autumn sage has tiny, rounded, bright green leaves and germander sage small, dusky green leaves. California poppy leaves die back soon after the flowers fade so you won't notice them.

If you have shade, try variegated Carmel creeper (*Ceanothus griseus horizontalis 'Diamond Heights'*) - low-growing California lilac. The leaves of this broad shrub are chartreuse with a diamond of deep green in the center. Add Corsican hellebores (*Helleborus argutifolius*), a mounding perennial that has palm-like leaves in dusky blue-green, and pale greenish flowers in late fall to winter.

For more color, add Geranium *maderense*, a giant, biennial geranium that looks straight out of a Doctor Seuss book. It has huge, deep green palm-like leaves with jagged edges. Its tall stems are the color of red licorice, atop which enormous pom-poms of deep pink flowers appear every other year. This geranium dies after it flowers, but not before releasing copious amounts of seeds. The next year, you'll have more seedlings than you know what to do with. They are easy to pull out and share, so don't panic when you see them all over the garden.

By the way, I included botanical names for most of these plants for a reason. There are some plants whose common names are unique and recognizable. Then, there are plants whose common names vary from community to community, or whose common names are so common, that they apply to more than one type of plant. Botanical names, on the other hand, are unique. So if you ask for South African daisy in the nursery, there may be five or six or a dozen plants called South African daisy. But, if you ask for *Arctotis 'Big Magenta,'* you will get exactly the plant you are looking for.

Pronóstico del suministro de agua para el 2010

El pronóstico del suministro de agua para el año 2010 sigue siendo monitoreado. Recientes estudios de la capa de nieve Sierra muestran los niveles de precipitación a 85 por ciento de lo normal. Mientras ha sido un buen comienzo de la temporada, si estas cifras continúan para la primavera, puede significar que el Estado de California entrara en su cuarto año consecutivo de sequía.

Además de los niveles mínimos de nieve, las restricciones de bombeo desde el Delta de la Bahía de California siguen limitando el agua importada desde el norte de California. Las limitaciones recurrentes también se refieren al suministro de agua del río Colorado después de ocho años de sequía. Nuevos desafíos están también sobre el horizonte, como el Acuerdo sobre la Cuantificación de la Adjudicación del Agua del Río. Este acuerdo se estableció después de años de pleito sobre los derechos del agua en el río Colorado y recientemente se le ha presentado un obstáculo legal significativo.

Aunque la situación de nuestro suministro de agua sea incierta, siempre hay resquejido de esperanza. Los esfuerzos proactivos de las agencias locales de agua ofrecen optimismo mientras nos esforzamos a diversificar el suministro de agua. Por ejemplo, este año, la Autoridad del Condado de San Diego recibirá 80,000 acres-pie de agua del Distrito de Riego de Imperial (IID), como resultado de los esfuerzos para alinear los antiguos canales de tierra en el Valle Imperial. La región también recibirá otros 70,000 acres-pie de agua por parte de un acuerdo separado con el IID. Estas nuevas fuentes de agua a largo plazo representan un suministro importante para la región.

El Distrito de Agua de Otay también ha hecho un progreso significativo para diversificar los recursos locales. Estamos avanzando nuevos programas para aprovechar el agua subterránea en Rancho Del Rey y el río Middle Sweetwater. Estos esfuerzos pueden llegar a producir cientos de acres-pie de agua cada año. El distrito también ha puesto en marcha un nuevo programa para convertir los sistemas de riego de agua potable de viviendas multifamiliares en agua reciclada. En virtud de este nuevo programa, el distrito le reembolsará el cincuenta por ciento de los costos de conversión a las Asociaciones de Propietarios. En las comunidades donde el agua reciclada está disponible para el riego de jardines, este programa reduce el uso de agua potable mientras maximiza el uso de agua reciclada.

Este año pasado, los clientes del Distrito de Agua de Otay evitaron medidas obligatorias de conservación, debido a sus extraordinarios esfuerzos por conservar agua de manera voluntaria, y por su apoyo de proyectos de agua reciclada. Gracias por sus esfuerzos y gran apoyo hacia el Distrito durante el desarrollo de suministros de agua locales. Este año también habrá retos del suministro de agua para todos los residentes del Condado de San Diego, y les pedimos a todos seguir haciendo su parte para conservar agua.



Distrito de agua de Otay Estado del Suministro de Agua

SEQUIA - NIVEL 1 ESTADO DE VIGILANCIA

Medidas voluntarias para reducir los riesgos. Depende del agua disponible. El agua se usa con una restricción y una ración en el tiempo de riego agrícola.

SEQUIA - NIVEL 2 ESTADO DE ALERTA

Restricciones obligatorias del uso del agua.

SEQUIA - NIVEL 3 ESTADO CRITICO

Ninguna restricción de acceso a desarrollos nuevos. Límites estrictos de la cantidad de agua utilizada para el riego y otros usos que no incluyen proyectos de salud pública.

SEQUIA - NIVEL 4 ESTADO DE EMERGENCIA

Alto el riesgo de pérdidas. Ninguna construcción de nuevos o desarrollos nuevos.

El Distrito de Agua Otay continúa en Estado de Vigilancia de Sequía-Nivel 1 para su área de servicio.

El Distrito de Agua Otay agradece a sus clientes por conservar agua y por su apoyo del uso de agua reciclada. Debido a sus esfuerzos por conservar agua e inversiones en la infraestructura de agua reciclada, los clientes de Otay están evitando medidas estrictas y obligatorias para la conservación del agua.

Gracias por su apoyo y continúen con el buen trabajo!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT CALL 619-670-2222 OR GO TO WWW.OTAYWATER.GOV