

Summer 2016 Drought Update

Since June 2015, **EMWD customers have worked together to save nearly 6.4 billion gallons of water and reduce water use by 20 percent compared to 2013.** This was an incredible effort, and we encourage you to **keep up your good work!**

Although the current drought was somewhat relieved by winter rains, **serious drought conditions still exist, and the water supply future remains uncertain.** So EMWD encourages customers to **stay within water budgets and save water wherever and whenever possible.** Doing so will help continue to reduce overall water use by 20 percent as compared to 2013.

The State of California is considering significant changes to tighten local water efficiency targets and encourage more water efficient landscapes. In anticipation of new State regulations, EMWD is evaluating changes to its water budget-based tiered rate structure that will encourage long-term conservation and discourage high water use landscaping. **Water efficient landscaping is a long term response to changing weather patterns and strict statewide efficiency standards.**

If you allowed your lawn to go brown or reduced watering over the past year, thank you! Keep up the good work, and **please don't replant anything this summer. Instead, consider updating your landscape with a more water-efficient design in the fall.**

EMWD can help!

We have landscape classes, on-line water efficient designs, tips and tricks at www.emwd.org/usewaterwisely. If you moved into a new home and need ideas for backyard landscaping, we have some water efficient designs at www.emwd.org/use-water-wisely/water-wise-landscape-design-concept-plans.

EMWD also has several programs to help eligible customers to conserve including:

- Rebates for weather-based irrigation controllers, rotating sprinkler nozzles, soil moisture sensor system, etc.
- Direct installation programs for weather-based irrigation controllers and/or sprinkler nozzles
- Free Deep Drip Watering Stakes to help maintain beautiful trees by watering them directly at the root zone
- Free outdoor water use efficiency kits

And don't forget...

- Automatic sprinklers are NOT maintenance free! Check them regularly for broken, tilted and plugged heads.
- Keep your trees alive by deep soaking the roots. Our free Deep Drip Watering Stakes program can help.
- Run-off water is a violation of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan...don't get fined!
- Water landscapes between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to reduce evaporation and avoid penalties.

Thank you for doing your part in continuing to help save water through this historic drought. For more information, please visit www.emwd.org.

