

LAFCO UPDATE

On July 6, 2015 the LAFCO Commission met to consider the unilateral takeover application filed by the Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD) which would dissolve RMWD and annex all territory into FPUD. LAFCO Chairman County Supervisor Bill Horn could not attend the meeting and sent in a written request to the other Commissioners to delay the item until a date when he could attend. Supervisor Horn indicated that since the agencies in question were in his Supervisorial District he wanted to be present when the item was considered. The Commission voted to delay the item until the September 14, 2015 LAFCO meeting.

Many RMWD ratepayers made the trip down for the July hearing and we encourage all of our ratepayers to participate if they can in this important process. The hearing in September will be at 9 AM in the County Administration Building downtown, so mark your calendars and we hope to see you there.

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Special Information for Transitional Special Agricultural Water Rate (TSAWR) Customers

As you are aware, the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) has implemented its Drought Management Plan which includes a mandatory 15% cutback for TSAWR customers. Failure to meet these cutback targets may result in penalties from SDCWA that could reach over \$2 Million – or more. At the June 23, 2015 Board meeting, the RMWD Board of Directors adopted four policies designed to help TSAWR customers manage their required cutbacks in the most flexible way possible.



1. *Allocation Rollover* – Customers whose use is under their allotted allocations will have unused units rolled over into the subsequent month. This will allow customers to adjust to changing weather patterns. Conversely, customers who exceed their allocation will have their allocations reduced in the following month for the first half of the year. Penalty rates will not be applied until after a review of the situation following the November billing period.
2. *Allocation Smoothing* – Customers may choose to adjust their monthly allocations throughout the year, moving units from wetter months forward to the drier summer months. When combined with allocation rollover, this allows customers to avoid penalties while working through the process of managing their consumption. Customers need to submit the allocation smoothing form to RMWD by August 10, 2015 in order to take advantage of this program. The form is on our website and will be mailed to all TSAWR customers.
3. *Grouping of Accounts* – Customers who own multiple properties and have multiple TSAWR accounts can group their allocations and share them between accounts. This applies only if the customer owns both properties and accounts – no sharing is allowed in other circumstances. Customers need to submit an allocation sharing form to RMWD by August 10, 2015 in order to take advantage of this program. The form is on our website and will be mailed to all TSAWR customers.
4. *Delayed Penalties* – RMWD will hold back on any penalty charges until after the November billing period has passed. By this time of the year we will have a good idea of the level of conservation we are seeing as well as how the projected El Nino is shaping up. If there is a wet winter, there will be no problem meeting most of our TSAWR reduction targets. It is the goal of the Board of Directors to get through this drought without levying any penalties to any customers, and this delay of penalties will allow our customers to adjust and allow the Board to have a better idea of both demand reductions and hydrology for the upcoming year. If our customers conserve beyond the targets, the Board may be able to reallocate more units across the board, but if we have not met the targets, the Board may need to take additional actions to enforce the mandatory cutbacks.

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Many TSAWR customers have asked how they can opt-out of the program. Our standard TSAWR contracts allow customers to opt out at the start of each calendar year. If you wish to opt-out, you must submit writing notification to the District by December 15, 2015. A form is available on our website and will be mailed to all TSAWR customers.

Finally, many customers have asked how the TSAWR allocations mesh with the RMWD billing cycles which do not start and stop on the first of the month. The fact is that some of the consumption billing in July actually happened in June, so any allocations will not be applied until the August billing cycle in order to capture only consumption from July forward. We encourage all TSAWR customers to take immediate steps to reduce consumption so we can avoid penalties imposed by SDCWA.

Drought Information for Non-TSAWR Customers

As noted in previous newsletters, there are no specific allocation programs or penalty rates for non-TSAWR customers. There are, however, some changes to our Drought Ordinance that were adopted on June 23, 2015 to bring our ordinance into compliance with State Law and SDCWA mandates. The District is currently in Drought Level 2.

Level 1 Drought restrictions are as follows:

1. Stop washing down paved surfaces, including but not limited to sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or patios, except when it is necessary to alleviate safety or sanitation hazards.
2. Stop water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, low head drainage, or overspray, etc. Similarly, stop water flows onto non-targeted areas, such as adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, hardscapes, roadways, or structures.
3. Irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only.
4. Use a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or bucket to water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties that are not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system.
5. Irrigate nursery and commercial grower's products before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only. Watering is permitted at any time with a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a bucket or watering can. Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time. Watering of livestock is permitted at any time.
6. Use re-circulated water to operate ornamental fountains.
7. Was vehicles using a bucket and hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, mobile high pressure/low volume was system, or at a commercial site that re-circulates (reclaims) water on-site. Avoid washing during hot conditions when additional water is required due to evaporation.
8. Serve and refill water in restaurants and other food service establishments only upon request.
9. Offer guests in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.
10. Repair all water leaks within five (5) days of notification by the RMWD unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager.
11. Use recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available.

Level 2 Drought restrictions include all Level 1 restrictions and the following:

1. Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than two (2) assigned days per week on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the RMWD. This section shall not apply to commercial growers or nurseries.
2. Limit lawn watering and landscape irrigation using sprinklers to no more than ten (10) minutes per watering station per assigned day. This provision does not apply to landscape irrigation systems using water efficient devices, including but not limited to: weather based controllers, drip/micro-irrigation systems and stream rotor sprinklers.
 - a. Operating irrigation systems in a manner that allows water to run off the property is defined as water waste. In cases where irrigating for 10 minutes per station will result in water runoff due to the inability of the soil or landscape materials to absorb that amount of water, customers shall alter their watering schedules to prevent such runoff. The customer shall modify the schedules to prevent runoff but shall ensure that the total reduction in irrigation is equivalent to the two day per week watering schedule. Customers may adjust their schedules to water on more than two days per week so long as the equivalent reduction in irrigation is achieved.
3. Water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties, and not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system governed by section 5 (b) (1), on the same schedule set forth in section 5 (b) (1) by using a bucket, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation.
4. Repair all leaks within seventy-two (72) hours of notification by the RMWD unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager.
5. No application of potable water to outdoor landscapes is allowed during and within 48 hours of measureable rainfall.

RMWD staff will be monitoring the area for customers who fail to comply with these restrictions and will issue warnings to customers when they notice an issue. Repeated offenses will result in fines of \$100 and upward for each violation.

The most important thing customers can do is to simply stop the wasteful use of water. One of the biggest sources of water waste is landscape irrigation that runs too long or is not adjusted correctly. If there is a large stream of water leaving your property when you irrigate, you are wasting water and you need to take steps to minimize this waste. We realize the getting it down to zero is not practical, but excessive runoff will be enforced strongly by RMWD staff.