

Water Conservation Newsletter

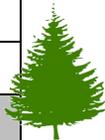


One Year Later: How are We Doing?

Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency on January 17, 2014, and City wide water conservation efforts hit their stride in March 2014. One year later, let's take a look at how those conservation measures paid off:

Average Reduction from March 2014 - December 2014 compared to 2013

Residential		-8.4%
Commercial		-4.0%*
City Uses	Parks	-20.8%
	Facilities	-27.0%
City Wide Total		-8.1%



*This is with a 17.5% increase in Transient Occupancy! (Calendar year)

Water Allocation Program for New Development

Morro Bay enacted a new Water Allocation Program last year, which requires newly issued water meters to offset their water use on a two-to-one basis (or 440 gallons/day). *This does not apply to existing water meters.* Water offsets could be achieved by implementing water saving best management practices or by paying an "In Lieu" fee of \$5,800

Water Equivalent Unit (WEU) Retrofit Program Kick off of Spring 2015!

Great news for all Water Customers!

These "In Lieu" fees collected will be available to provide water saving best management practices to Morro Bay's water customers.

Retrofits options may include:

- Irrigation retrofits
- Ultra low flow toilets
- Lawn/landscape replacement
- Rain Barrels

**Stay tuned for more application details...
Kick-off in Spring of 2015**

Remember: By City Ordinance, outdoor water use may only be used before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., and only on:

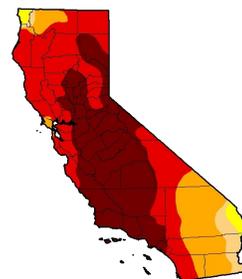
- ◆ **Wednesdays** and **Sundays** for properties with **even** numbered addresses*, and
- ◆ **Tuesdays** and **Saturdays** for properties with **odd** numbered addresses*

◆ *Unless the Public Works Director has granted permission for an alternative schedule.

Reasons to Keep Conserving

Just because it starts to rain doesn't mean the drought is over. It is important to keep conserving water year-round.

- Morro Bay is located in an area afflicted by "Exceptional Drought," the most severe rating. The regions where our water comes from all suffer from either "Extreme" or "Exceptional" drought.



Graphic by National Drought Mitigation Center

- The City of Morro Bay's primary source of water is surface water from the State Water Project, which is augmented by water pumped from local wells.



San Luis Reservoir - Photo by Water

- San Luis Reservoir, a portion of which flows through the Coastal Branch Aqueduct and into our taps, is only at 69% of its historical level (Feb. 2015).
- Morro Bay typically averages 16 inches of rain each year. The City only received 4" in 2013 and 12.6" in 2014. We need a lot of years of above average rainfall to catch up!

TIP: Install an inexpensive low-flow showerhead. You can get info on WaterSense labeled products, including showerheads, toilets, and faucets at www.epa.gov/watersense.



Ways to Keep Conserving



• Use a rain barrel to harvest rainwater from gutters for watering your garden or trees.

• Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your yard that needs



water. When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your plants.

• Brush up on how to set your irrigation controller properly, and adjust times as it rains more frequently. If you do some extra watering by hose or sprinkler, set a kitchen timer to remind you to turn the water off.

Too much hassle to change your sprinkler timer with the seasons and foggy days?

TIP: Consider a smart controller, which automatically adjusts the watering time and frequency based on soil moisture and weather.



TIP: Remember, your toilet is not a trash can! Throw away tissues instead of flushing them.



Stay Informed!

Future Public Meetings about Water and Sewer Rates:

Public Works Advisory Board
City Council

Feb. 19th at 6 pm
Feb. 24th at 4:30 pm

To stay up to date on what's happening in the City of Morro Bay, sign up for "Notify Me" on the City's Webpage (www.morro-bay.ca.us) or [Like Us](#) on Facebook.



For more information about water conservation, check out www.morro-bay.ca.us/waterconservation or contact Public Works at (805) 772-6261.

The City of Morro Bay thanks you for your water conservation efforts!

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