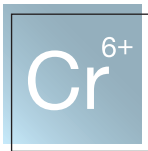




ID No.1 NEWS

FROM THE
GENERAL MANAGER

Keeping Customers Informed



Welcome to the first edition of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1's (ID No.1) newsletter. The newsletter is designed to inform customers about ID No.1's key water issues and activities. The most immediate issue that ID No.1 has been working on is to ensure reliable water deliveries during severe drought conditions and supply reductions caused by the new State regulations for Cr6 allowed in drinking water. With water resource challenges expected to continue, 2015 will be marked by significant, proactive efforts to restore groundwater supplies. ID No.1 will provide regular updates to our customers. I also encourage you to visit our website at www.syrwd.org for updated information.

Sincerely,
Chris Pahlstrom

Sign-Up to Receive The Latest News and Updates Via Email



To sign-up, send an email request to general@syrwd.org



Actions to Keep The Water Flowing

California is bracing for another dry year. As the fourth year of drought unfolds, ID No.1's water supplies remain extensively impacted with only 45 percent deliveries from Lake Cachuma, 20 percent from the State Water Project and limited water from the Santa Ynez River. The winter storms needed to fill reservoirs and replenish groundwater supplies did not come, nor is any significant rainfall expected to occur over the next several months. Therefore, ID No.1 is calling upon its customers to continue with every effort to conserve and help stretch our strained water supplies. Customers are encouraged to conserve water both indoors and especially outdoors. As residents, businesses and farms have embraced water efficiency, those practices must continue. ID No.1 customers have responded to the call for conservation—we THANK YOU.

Because of the drought conditions, ID No.1 has also been working to do more with less. We've identified ways to make the most of our resources and are taking actions to keep water flowing to homes, businesses and farms. But remember, the drought isn't the only reason for the constraints on our water supplies. Tough new State of California regulations on Hexavalent Chromium-6 (Cr6) levels permitted in drinking water forced several groundwater wells out of service causing a 50 percent reduction in water supplies from this essential source. The impact of this new, more stringent regulation causes an immediate shortage of available water supplies.

Restoring access to groundwater wells is key to reliable water supplies. ID No.1 relies on groundwater pumped from wells within the Upland Basin along with its other sources of supply to meet customer demand during the high use months and as a drought bank. ID No.1 has been studying options to comply with the Cr6 requirements, and developing several near-term projects to restore water production from key wells impacted by these new State standards. For example, you may have noticed activities at certain District wells in the area. This work is part of an effort to test technologies to reduce Cr6 so that wells can be modified in order to recapture water production. Much more may need to be done, but these projects can provide relief while long-term solutions are developed.

In the months ahead, ID No.1 will continue analysis of the potential new blending systems and water treatment facility, and will pursue State funding to help offset those anticipated capital costs. Our customers will be informed as more information becomes available on Cr6 capital costs, and the impacts on the District's budget and water rates.

During this drought and Cr6 water shortage emergency, customer involvement is encouraged as ID No.1 develops a long-term water resource strategy. We look forward to a successful year of implementing sustainable solutions to meet our water supply needs.

Conservation Counts



Since June 2014, water users have significantly reduced water use through voluntary conservation. As of March 2015, domestic customers and rural residential customers have used 22.5% less water compared to the prior year. This is a significant achievement but, as we move into the summer months and statewide mandatory conservation begins, customers will need to continue to conserve. Thank you for your efforts throughout the drought and your commitment to conservation.

Answering The Monthly Water System Charge Questions

Since the very early years of ID No.1's formation, all ID No.1 customers have been paying a fixed monthly service charge, otherwise known as the monthly Water System Charge. The Water System Charge is based on the cost of service for providing drinking water to customers. This charge equates to each customer's proportional cost share based on the size of the meter for the parcel size.

What is commonly misunderstood is that the Water System Charge is meant to reimburse ID No.1 for cost of the water meter. That is not the reason. The cost for the meter was paid in full when water service was requested for a parcel and the meter was first installed. Rather, the monthly fixed Water System Charge is used to fund the District's maintenance, capital and rehabilitation projects, such as re-building existing groundwater well pumps and motors; re-development of groundwater wells for more efficient water production; repairing or replacement of booster pump stations and pressure control facilities used to distribute water; rebuilding and improving disinfection facilities to assure meeting the State standards for the highest water quality; repairing damaged water mains and replacing main transmission main valves or lines due to the age of the system; and restoring or resurfacing the water storage reservoirs used to hold treated water.

Additionally, the monthly Water System Charges are also used for rebuilding or, if needed, replacement of fire hydrants used for public fire protection, repairs to water service connections that bring water from the water main to the meter, and ID No.1's distribution labor costs to perform those all-of-the-above tasks so that our customers are provided quality and continuous service. The ID No.1 field crew is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the entire system which does include meter reading. If that isn't enough, the monthly Water System Charges are used to fund capital improvement projects, such as the 3.2 million gallon Zone 3 Reservoir and those types of water supply projects needed in the future.

In short, this charge is the customer's share in the cost of maintaining and/or repairing the water system and water storage reservoirs throughout the ID No.1. Essentially this charge provides customers with the assurance that when they turn on the tap, quality water flows to them.



About ID No.1

Formed in 1959, ID No.1 serves the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, the residents within the unincorporated areas in-between and the City of Solvang. With approximately 6,737 customers (excluding the City of Solvang), ID No.1 currently provides water directly to 2,553 Domestic, Rural Residential/Limited Agriculture, and Commercial customers as well as 118 Agricultural customers. ID No.1's mission is to provide residential and agricultural customers with reasonably priced, reliable, high quality water supply, and efficient and economical public services.

New Year, Same Drought

California has not received any significant rain this season and we will be facing yet another year of extreme drought conditions. Water conservation measures are still in effect and further restrictions for water use are likely to be imposed.

To ensure continued success in water-saving practices, ID No.1 is providing customers with useful tips and tools to help save water inside and outside homes and businesses. We call on our customers to help us reduce water use even more in 2015.



We encourage you to:

Take shorter showers



Change your sprinkler schedule as the weather cools



Stop washing down driveways and sidewalks



Repair and replace damaged sprinklers



Run the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads only



Find and fix leaky faucets and toilets



Limit outdoor irrigation to twice a week

For more on the best conservation practices, please visit www.syrwd.org.

Want to know more about what we're doing?

The public is always encouraged to attend ID No.1 Board of Trustee meetings on the third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Conference Room located at 1070 Faraday. Please call the District office to confirm dates and locations. To see an up-to-date schedule of all Board meetings, please visit: <http://www.syrwd.org/calendar.php>.

For more information, please contact us at (805) 688-6015 or at general@syrwd.org.