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WATER SUPPLY SHUTDOWN

TCWD has been notified that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) is scheduled to shut down the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant (Diemer) for maintenance and repairs at the beginning of the year. This is typically done on an annual basis during the month of January because of the lower demand of water due to the cooler weather.

The shutdown will have a significant impact on all of the retail water agencies in South Orange County. This is due to the fact that most of these agencies import the water for their respective service areas. Many of these agencies are heavily reliant on MET to provide water supply on a continuous basis. Retail water agencies, like TCWD, have a contingency plan in place to ensure continued service to its customers during this prolonged interruption.

There are two types of water that MET delivers to its customers from Diemer: treated and untreated. Usually, MET alternates the scheduled maintenance and repairs, but this time is different as both water sources will be unavailable to retail agencies for an extended amount of time. The shutdown is scheduled for eleven days in January, beginning on Friday the sixth. So what does this mean for TCWD and you?

Under normal conditions, TCWD takes untreated water from the Lake Matthews Water Supply Line before it arrives at Diemer by way of the Santiago Lateral Pipeline and the Baker Pipeline. TCWD then treats this water at its own water treatment plant in Lake Forest and delivers it to our customers. During the shutdown, TCWD will take three to six cubic feet per second (CFS) of water from Irvine Lake which is conveyed through the Baker Pipeline. It is anticipated

this amount of supply water will sufficiently meet TCWD's customer demand during the shutdown.

Although there will be relatively little impact to our service area, TCWD asks that you make an effort to conserve water during this time. If TCWD's water treatment plant can produce more water than is needed to meet demand, we will make this excess water available to neighboring agencies to assist with water supply during this shutdown period.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The start of the New Year is a time for renewal and reevaluation. TCWD encourages our customers to use this time of the year as an opportunity review some key water-related items at your homes.

- **Irrigation Timer Batteries**

Irrigation timers are helpful tools for homeowners and commercial landscapes. Usually, these devices are designed with two power sources: electrical power and a backup battery. It is a good practice to change out the batteries at the beginning of the year. That way, if there is a power outage for an extended period at your residence, you can be confident that there will not be any unnecessary use of water for irrigation purposes.

These small batteries can pose a problem when the timer loses their power supply because when power is restored, these devices are designed to implement their default settings. The default settings for many timers currently available on the market are typically ten minutes per station. Usually, your residential irrigation timer is not high on the concern list during a power outage

and this often happens without the homeowner's knowledge.

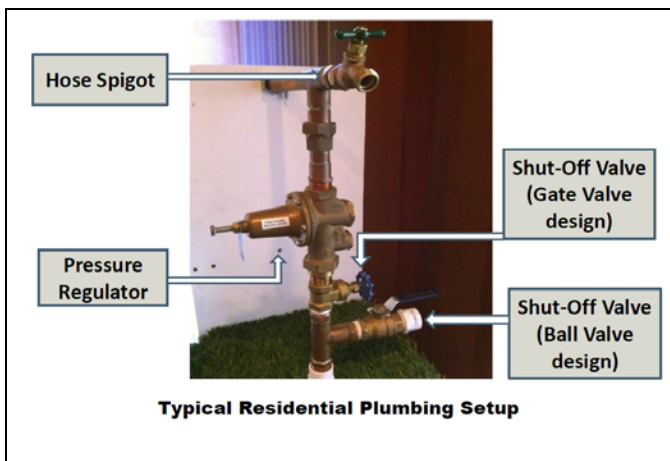
- **Irrigation Schedules**

The New Year is also a good time to review your irrigation schedule. It is important to adjust irrigation schedules throughout the year as the seasons change from one to the next. During the month of January (if it is not raining), it is recommended that sprinkler run times be reduced. It is important to always inspect your gardens and lawns for stress or over or under-irrigating, as well as watching for runoff which is an indicator of over-irrigating.

- **Exercise valves**

At your home, there is a water service valve which is indispensable in the event of a plumbing system water leak. This valve is typically in line with a hose spigot and is designed to isolate the home plumbing system from both the meter and the residential irrigation system. Usually, this valve is located in the garage or close to the front door.

This should be the valve customers use first when turning off water to their house. This valve can come in two designs: Gate Valve or Ball Valve. A word of caution, if this valve is not exercised (closed and opened slowly) at least once a year, it may not work correctly at a time of great need. If there is a problem with this valve, it is important to have a plumber make the repairs.



- **Pressure Regulator Check**

Another device which is important to check is the pressure regulator. This device is very important

to the homeowner because it is designed to maintain an optimal water pressure in the home plumbing system. Typical water pressures in the District's distribution system can be as high as 125 pounds per square inch (PSI). This amount of pressure is not ideal for the plumbing inside your home, therefore a pressure regulator may be installed. This device can lower the pressure to the recommended levels of 60 to 80 PSI.

A pressure regulator's effectiveness can be checked by connecting a pressure gauge the hose spigot and turning on the water slowly. This tests the PSI in your home plumbing. It is the District's recommendation that homeowners contact a plumber for the adjustment or replacement of this device.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these water-related items at your home, please feel free to contact TCWD's Customer Service or stop by the Main Office.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board Meeting was held on December 21, 2011, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- TCWD's Annual Organization Meeting
- Approval of Implementation of Flexible Spending Plan for District Employees
- Status Update Relating to Baker Water Treatment Plant
- Discussion Relating to Pretreatment and Source Control Ordinance and Enforcement Response Plan
- Discussion Relating to the Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line
- Status Update on Dove Reservoir/Trabuco Reservoir Inter-tie and Trabuco Highlands Pressure Reducing Station projects
- Status Report on TCWD's Labor Compliance Program