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ON TAP

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MAY IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH

WISE WATER USER OPTIONS

TCWD frequently receives questions from many of our customers about how they can be wise water users. A significant factor is often the subject of money. TCWD understands that in these difficult economic times, many customers are closely monitoring their expenses and are actively searching for ways to cut costs in their personal budgets.

In fact, there are a wide variety of resources and options which are available to TCWD customers to realize savings. It is important to note that some of these options may involve an initial investment cost. This investment can vary depending on the size and scope of the project. In the long term though, there can be a substantial savings to the customer through reduced water usage.

California Native versus Friendly Plants

One of the ways to curb water costs is through reduced water usage overall. This can be done by reviewing what types of plants comprise the landscape at your home. In recent years, there has been an increase in the application of California Native and/or California Friendly plants in landscapes and gardens. Although the terms appear to be similar, they are not synonymous.

California Native plants are native to the State. Some of the benefits of using California Native plants include reduced water use and green waste, less need for pesticides and chemicals, and the re-establishment of native habitats which attract pollinating insects and wildlife.

California Friendly plants are significantly different than California Native plants in that they are native to other areas with similar climate conditions. Southern California's climate is characterized as semi-arid and Mediterranean. If you are considering using these types of plants in your garden, be sure that they will thrive in this type of climate.

Before any home landscape project is started, visit a few local nurseries to learn more about these types of plants. This will provide you an opportunity to get some additional advice from their staff and see the plants for yourself. Many examples of the types of plant life which thrive in Southern California's climate can be researched at Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) website www.bewaterwise.com. Also, please feel free to stop the District Main Office to see some additional examples in our California Friendly garden.

Landscape Redesign

A method which can have a more long-lasting impact on water use is through landscape redesign. For many years, the homes in Southern California have been designed with large grass lawns in the front and back yards. Although these landscapes are pleasant to the eye, they also require a large amount of water for maintenance. The redesign of residential landscapes can vary in scope and size, from small to very large, and it all depends on the homeowner's end goal.

Some residents have opted for changing portions of their softscape into hardscape. There are an endless variety of choices and options for hardscape, such as paver stones, concrete walkways, and brick patios. Some of the benefits of hardscape areas include the enhancement of the overall landscape, an increase in property value, and less maintenance than plants. Again, there can be a substantial investment to modify softscape areas to hardscape.

Local Programs

Finally, TCWD has partnered with MWD and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to offer some water use efficiency programs at the local level. These programs have been discussed in previous issues of On Tap, such as the Turf Removal Program,

SmartScape Program, and the SmartTimer Rebate Program. These programs can be reviewed at MWDOC's website at www.mwdoc.com. On MWDOC's website, there are program applications, background information, and terms and conditions which are available for customer use.

DOVE RESERVOIR/TRABUCO RESERVOIR INTER-TIE

If you have attended any of the recent TCWD Regular Board Meetings at the District's Main Office, you may have heard updates about the Dove Reservoir/Trabuco Reservoir Inter-tie project. This project consists of the Dove Reservoir to Trabuco Reservoir Inter-tie (Inter-tie) and two pressure reducing stations in Trabuco Highlands. The goal of the project is to improve the operation of the distribution system overall.

The Inter-tie project portion consists of approximately 3,600 feet of 10-inch HDPE pipe installed along the unpaved service road between Brookseed Drive in the Robinson Ranch community and the Dove Canyon Water Reservoir in the Dove Canyon community. This project has multiple benefits which affect the District's service area at large.

Primarily, the Inter-tie project serves as a service connection between two separate service area zones. The connection of these two zones will allow District operations to more effectively manage the distribution system. Also, the pipeline will provide a level of redundancy in the system, in the event there is a service interruption.

There is another benefit of the Inter-tie project which has a greater effect on the District's service area. Through the implementation of this pipeline, the need to increase pressures at Harris Grade Reservoir and throughout the canyon is greatly reduced. This means that the pipeline water pressures at the lowest points of the Canyon areas will be reduced during peak flows, which translates into less strain on the infrastructure in those areas.

Finally, the Inter-tie project is a water reliability project that will also provide a source of supplemental fire water supply to areas between the end of Brookseed Drive and Dove Reservoir. Between these two communities, there is open wildland space and hiking trails. This Inter-tie project includes the implementation of four fire hydrants for the purpose of fire suppression, if needed.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR VACANCY PENDING

On April 17, 2012, Board of Director member Matt Disston notified the Board President and the General Manager that he would be resigning his Director position effective May 2, 2012. At the Regular Board Meeting of April 18, 2012, the Board of Directors determined to replace the pending vacancy by appointment.

TCWD'S ON TAP

The ability of the Board of Directors to appoint a Director is stipulated by Water Code Section 30504 and Government Code Section 1780. The appointment of a successor by the remaining Board of Directors has been used historically by the Board of Directors. It is a cost effective method and allows the Board of Directors to select an individual who can demonstrate an understanding of the Trabuco Canyon Water District.

The appointment would need to take place within 60 days of the effective date of resignation. In the April 2012 issue of *On Tap*, District customers were also advised of the pending vacancy. Additionally, it was noted this issue would be discussed at the April Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Any individuals who live in the District and who may have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors should visit the District's website at www.tcwd.ca.gov for information on the process and the questions for consideration by applicants. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2012.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Regular 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.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Board Meeting was held on April 18, 2012, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Discussion and Action Regarding the Matter of Pending Vacancy on the Board of Directors
- Approval of Resolution Regarding the Transition of ACWA Health Benefits Authority to ACWA Joint Powers Authority
- Discussion Relating to Activities for Water Awareness Month
- Discussion Relating to TCWD Budget Development Process
- Status Update Relating to the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Status Update Relating to the Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line
- Status Update Relating to the Dove Reservoir/Trabuco Reservoir Inter-tie and Trabuco Highlands Pressure Reducing Stations Project