



ON TAP Newsletter

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MAY IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH

TCWD'S 2014 WATER AWARENESS EVENT

TCWD has traditionally hosted an annual event during the month of May. Typically, the Water Awareness Event has focused on the efficient management of local water sources, methods of how your water is safely treated by TCWD, and fun learning opportunities for both customers and members of the public. The 2014 Water Awareness Event is shaping up to be even better than last year's, and the timing could not have been more significant.

Since the beginning of 2014, the Statewide Drought has been discussed heavily in the media, at government public meetings, and around the water cooler. Naturally, the theme of this year's Water Awareness Event is the Statewide Drought and the impacts of the Proclaimed State of Emergency by Governor Brown. TCWD views this annual event as an opportunity to share with our customers some of the most recent updates on the current drought situation, and strategies for wise water use.

Water Use Efficiency

Water Use Efficiency (WUE) is the use of strategic methods to minimize your water demand, while maximizing the impacts of your water yield. There are many different ways to improve individual WUE, both inside and outside your home, and some include devices that qualify for rebates. At the Event, there will be interactive displays on how to save water in the bathroom, kitchens, and most importantly, your landscape.

Drought Tolerant Landscapes

As the Statewide Drought continues to have a significant impact on both water districts and their customers, the consequence will take shape in residential and commercial landscapes.

Throughout Orange County, homeowners and homeowner associations have implemented California-Friendly Drought Tolerant Landscapes to decrease their water consumption.

TCWD's Administration Facility landscape was overhauled in 2007, and is wholly comprised of California-Friendly plants, as well as artificial turf. If you are looking for examples of Drought Tolerant plants for your garden, be sure to take a stroll through our garden.

Hands-On Water Presentations and Fun Stuff

Sure, TCWD's Water Awareness Event is typically an opportunity to learn, but it definitely would not be complete without some fun. As we do every year, a few of the larger District vehicles will be on display for photo opportunities, and the Board of Directors have signed on as chefs to BBQ the free Hot Dogs for attendees. Also this year, there will be a few more hands-on water presentations on water pressure, water treatment methods, and some disassembled water device samples, like fire hydrants, backflow devices, and water meters.

We look forward to seeing you at TCWD's Administration Facility on **Saturday, May 31st**, starting at **10:00 AM**.

WHAT IS A WATER WISE LANDSCAPE?

A water-wise landscape is one that allows for a beautiful healthy landscape with water-wise plants, minimal supplemental irrigation and little to no adverse runoff. Here are six practices that can help explain the basic principles of a water-wise landscape:

Appropriate plant selection: Select trees, shrubs and groundcovers based on their adaptability to your region's soil and climate. California has an abundance of beautiful native plants which generally have lower water demands, fewer pest problems and less fertilizer needs than plants that have been brought into our state. The *Sunset Plant Finder* is a good tool to find the right plants for your area.

The Right Plants for the Right Soil: Knowing your soil and selecting the right kind of plants for your area is an important part of a water-wise landscape.

Limit your grass: Grass can be a huge source of outdoor water waste. Consider cutting back or eliminating the amount of turf you have at your house. Or if your family enjoys a large grassy yard, make sure you have a water-efficient sprinkler system.

Efficient irrigation: Most people water their landscaping more than it needs. The greatest waste of outdoor water is applying too much too often.

Mulch is good: Use mulch wherever possible. Good mulch conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil. Also, mulch can reduce weed populations, prevent soil compaction, and keep soil temperatures more moderate.

Appropriate maintenance: One of the best benefits of a water-wise landscape is that it requires less maintenance. A well-designed

landscape can decrease maintenance by as much as 50 percent through reduced mowing; once-a-year mulching; elimination of non-California-friendly plants; and more efficient watering techniques.

If you are interested in learning more about how to implement a Water Wise Landscape, there is more information available at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Save Our H2O website under the *Sprinklers 101* section at www.saveourh2o.org.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items are highlights or matters discussed at the April 16, 2014, Regular Board Meeting:

- Approval of TCWD Network Infrastructure and Desktop System Upgrades.
- Status update on District Website Upgrade Project.
- Activities for Water Awareness Month
- Adoption of Resolution No. 2014-1197, Amending District's Rules and Regulations Regarding Certain Officers
- Discussion Concerning MWDOC Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget
- Discussion Concerning TCWD Fiscal Year 2014/2015 General and CIP Budgets
- Status update on Baker Water Treatment Plant.
- Status update on Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line.
- Status update on the Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility Project.
- Discussion concerning Statewide Drought Conditions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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