

Manager's Column

Adobe Press; Inside the NCSD

January 31, 2014 Issue

Just Plain Dry!

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Drought continues to worsen its grip across the state and the Governor has declared a state wide drought. Everyone is asking; "When is it going to rain?" Of course, no one can offer guarantees.

Here are some things we can say for sure:

- 1.) For at least another year and a half, the only source of water supply in the greater Nipomo area is groundwater.
- 2.) Nipomo area groundwater has been over-pumped for at least a decade. In spring 2013, basin experts found the area water table was at its lowest ever recorded level, declaring the basin to be in Potentially Severe criterion, and cautioning that the basin was less than one foot from being in Severe criterion.
- 3.) If outdoor irrigation is allowed this coming summer, it may be significantly more expensive than last year since area water purveyors are looking for ways to curb water demand and increase cost is the most effective way to get water use down.
- 4.) Our groundwater basin will need multiple years of above average rain before it will return to normal (within historic range) levels.
- 5.) In 2013, NCSD customers used an average of 180 gallons of water per person per day (this is a standardized measure used to compare communities around the state). The number is computed by taking all water pumped by the District and dividing by the estimated population served by the District. This is lower than in the recent past, yet still very high when compared to more urbanized areas.

Landscape irrigation drives most of our excessive water use and water waste. If you have a large (2000 square feet or larger) lawn, you likely use more water in your yard than in your home. Drip irrigation systems need regular maintenance to prevent these water saving devices from becoming water wasters. See the District's website (ncsd.ca.gov) or contact the office at 929-1133 for more tips and help on saving water.

Let's all be 'water wise' this winter as we prepare ourselves and our landscapes for a dry summer ahead. Consider sharing your water conservation story with me and I will reference it in the next article.

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager, info@ncsd.ca.gov