

Not Enough Rain – Serious Conditions Continue

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.

With just enough rain to knock down the dust, our State and Region remain in serious drought conditions. As February comes to a close, it seems inevitable that this rain year will be as dry as the last two and may be the driest in 120 years.

Rain recharges local groundwater, and local groundwater currently provides 100% of the Nipomo area's water supply. The increase in water demand over time, coupled with low rain fall in recent years, has resulted in the area's groundwater dropping to the lowest level in our 30-year record.

The District's Supplemental Water Project, which will bring a new source of water to the Mesa, is progressing on schedule with delivery of water anticipated this July.

The District continues to be in Drought Stage II (of five stages). This means conservation is strongly encouraged. The encouragement is done mainly through rate structure. If you are an NCS D customer, the amount you pay for water increases as your use increases. If the drought worsens, the District's elected Board may need to consider 'drought premiums' that would make it substantially more expensive to use water in the highest volume categories.

We still need everyone's help to protect our groundwater basin. District customers did a great job in 2014, ending the year with a 24% reduction in groundwater pumping. Below are some tips to consider as you continue to conserve.

What YOU can do:

- Re-think your landscaping choices; consider converting your lawn to a native shrub garden.
- If you have drought-tolerant landscape already, don't water it from September – May and water once a month June – August.
- Redouble your efforts on stopping water waste in the home; shorter showers, fix that leaky faucet/toilet, capture 'warming' water to use on plants.
- Learn how to use the water meter on your supply line to track water use.
- Talk it up with your neighbors and friends, share ideas on how to save water.

What have YOU DONE to conserve? If you have cut your water use, we want to hear from you! Additionally, if you have converted your landscape to native, drought-tolerant plants, we want to hear from you. You may be featured in upcoming District communications. Contact the District at info@ncsd.ca.gov.

Remember, saving water is its own reward – because saving water, saves money!

Until next time...