

WATER CONSERVATION

Monterey Peninsula residents are among the most water thrifty in the state and continue to support the conservation measures adopted by the District and Cal-Am.

Community Supports Conservation

The Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan was implemented in 1999 to:

- keep Cal-Am water production within limits set by State Order 95-10;
- establish mandatory water reductions for all water users when a physical water shortage such as a drought occurs; and
- mandate procedures to be followed in the event of a water supply emergency caused by a natural disaster or breakdown in the water distribution system.

The community remained at Stage 1 (the least restrictive stage) throughout 2002 because water production remained below year-to-date targets throughout the year.

New Water Rates in Effect

The California Public Utilities Commission approved the conservation rate schedule for Cal-Am customers in March 2000.

The schedule provides for a base water allowance for each full and part-time resident in a house, as well as lot size. If a water customer exceeds the water allowance by 150 percent, the water rate increases. Once these rates went into effect, the mechanism for Cal-Am to return to their standard rates was eliminated.

Water Permits Required for New Construction and Remodels

All residential new construction or remodeling projects that include the installation of water-using fixtures must

first obtain a water permit from the District. All commercial customers who change their usage from one type to another must obtain a water permit. Fees are based on the potential water use from new fixtures. The District maintains a record of the amount of water allocated to the jurisdictions for construction projects.

that are awaiting final planning department approval. No additional water will be allocated to the jurisdictions for water permits until State Order 95-10 is satisfied.

New construction continues, especially in the hillsides of Carmel Valley, along Highway 68, and along the coastline in Seaside and Sand City. Water for these

areas is not derived from the Carmel River and is not supplied by Cal-Am. These smaller water companies are not subject to Order 95-10. A total of 56 water permits were issued for projects in these areas, representing approximately 13 AF of projected annual water use.



Rob Cline, MPWMD, inspects a water heater in a Pacific Grove apartment building, as part of the District's conservation monitoring.

Toilet Retrofit Program Remains Integral to Conservation Plan

The District's toilet retrofit program is an integral part of its long-term conservation plan. Water saved by retrofitting toilets is set aside as permanent conservation savings to meet the Board's 1987 goal of achieving a 15 percent reduction in water use by the year 2020.

Refunds Offered for Replacing Inefficient Toilets

The Toilet Replacement Refund Program, jointly funded by the District and Cal-Am, refunds up to \$100 for each inefficient toilet replaced with an ultra-low flush model

in a residential or commercial building. Non-visitor serving commercial projects can receive the refund for up to 20 toilets per property. In 2002, refunds were issued for 251 toilets replaced under this program. The District estimates that these retrofits represent about 6 AF of water savings in 2002. Overall, the program has saved an estimated 149 AF annually since it began in 1997.

Toilets Retrofitted Upon Resale of Property

When a property is sold, staff inspects the building to make sure that inefficient plumbing fixtures have been replaced

Permits Issued in District Declined in 2002

In 2002, a total of 925 water permits were issued for projects throughout the District, 15% less than the number of permits issued in 2001. At the end of 2002, approximately 66 AF of water from the 1993 Paralta Well allocation remained available for new construction and remodel projects within the Cal-Am service area. In addition, 50 AF of water remained in the pre-Paralta accounts and 47 AF of public water credits were available. Most of this water has been reserved by the jurisdictions for projects