



District staff, however, moved ahead on development of the expanded water conservation and standby rationing plan based on a per-capita reduction, so that all water users would participate equally in the effort to reduce water use. Cal-Am plans to incorporate the District's plan into the General Rate Case application Cal-Am will submit to the PUC in early 1999.

Water Permits Issued

All new construction or remodel projects that will include the installation of water-using fixtures must obtain a water permit from the District before construction can proceed. In 1998, a total of 912 water permits were issued, representing 18.5 acre-feet of projected annual water use. Water permit activity was 15 percent greater than in 1997. At the end of 1998, approximately 110 acre-feet of water remained for new construction and remodel projects within the Cal-Am service area. Most of that water has been set aside by the jurisdictions for projects that are awaiting final planning department approval.

Some remodel projects were able to proceed on the condition that unneeded fixtures such as sinks or laundry hookups would be removed; this provided water credit toward the installation of other water-using fixtures needed in a residence. Water credit was also obtained by replacing appliances such as washing machines and dish washers with low-water-use models.

The District first established a cap on the amount of water that could be distributed within the community in 1980. That cap was raised in 1993 when Cal-Am's Paralta Well came on line and approximately 360 acre-feet of water were allocated to the jurisdictions for new construction and remodel projects. No additional water will be allocated to the jurisdictions for water permits until Cal-Am's water production shortfall identified in State Order 95-10 is addressed.

Toilet Retrofit Programs Save Water

The District's toilet retrofit programs reduce water use and result in lower water bills for those who take advantage of them. 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 Replacement of Inefficient Toilets

The Toilet Replacement Refund Program has been successful at encouraging property owners to retrofit inefficient toilets. In 1998, refunds were issued for replacement of 1,612 toilets under this program, representing 37 acre-feet of water savings. The refund program, jointly funded by the District and Cal-Am, offers up to \$100 for each inefficient toilet replaced with an ultra low-flow model in a residential or commercial building. Commercial projects can receive the refund for up to 20 toilets per property.

Stephanie Locke reviews a set of building plans prior to issuing a water permit. At the end of 1998, approximately 110 acre-feet of water remained for future new construction and remodel projects within the Cal-Am service area. Most of that water has been set aside by the jurisdictions for projects awaiting final approval. No additional water will be allocated to the jurisdictions for water permits until water production shortfalls identified in State Order 95-10 are addressed.