Governor Brown Signs Executive Order to End Mandatory Drought Regulations

CHWD adopts Stage 1 Normal Water Supply

For the past five years California has experienced a prolonged drought. During this time, the State Water Resources Control Board had issued mandatory water conservation regulations for the entire State. On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown signed an executive order, ending the drought regulations in all California counties except Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Tuolumne, where there are severely diminished groundwater supplies. Our local water supply is sufficient to meet State requirements, and on March 14, the CHWD Board of Directors voted to move CHWD back to a Stage 1 Normal Water Supply for our customers.

CHWD customers did an outstanding job of conserving water during this historic drought. In 2016, our customers saved 27% over water use in 2013. Thank you for helping us meet the District’s water conservation goals during the drought. With your continued diligence, we should be able to meet the Stage 1 water conservation goals. Let’s make efficient use of water a year-round activity!

The graphic to the right highlights the Stage 1 Normal Water Supply requirements and shows the conservations efforts needed for each of the five water conservation stages:

CHWD Tracking Newly Proposed Conservation Legislation

On April 7, legislation was introduced by the State that would implement new water conservation and drought resiliency requirements statewide. This legislation was introduced through a budget trailer bill, which limits the amount of analysis and vetting by various policy committees in the Legislature. The proposed legislation imposes both long-term and short-term regulations through legislative and regulatory action. CHWD has long been an advocate of responsible water usage, and supports many of the goals set forth in the Administration’s proposal, such as the need for continued water waste prohibitions and long-term water-use efficiency. However, there are some concerning elements to the legislation that would remove local control from water agencies and would add additional cost and administrative responsibilities. Because this proposed legislation has the potential to impact CHWD’s customers, we encourage you to learn more about this proposed legislation by visiting http://chwd.org/our-water/water-efficiency-resources/.
If passed by the State legislature, this type of tax may necessitate the diversion of ratepayer funds from CHWD's efforts to maintain safe and reliable water infrastructure for our customers. It may also compromise local decision making and possibly redistribute valuable local resources to satisfy water quality and supply issues that are, in some cases, not of statewide concern. The District advocates for local control of our resources as being vital to continue meeting the needs of our customers. CHWD is tracking this bill along with other legislation of interest, and will endeavor to keep our customers informed of any regulatory actions that may directly or indirectly raise water rates for our customers. Learn more about this potential legislation by visiting chwd.org/our-water/water-efficiency-resources/.

This information was provided by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) which represents 21 municipal and industrial water suppliers in the Sacramento region, including Citrus Heights Water District.

District Tracking Potential State Legislation
Adding Public Goods Charge to Water Bills

CHWD works hard to keep your rates as low as possible. Maintaining local control over fees you are charged is one of the ways we do this. We work with the Regional Water Authority (RWA), who tracks and advocates for legislation to ensure that our regional needs and concerns are positively represented on legislative and regulatory policies and actions. This partnership provides us with information on the latest developments on many legislative issues and policy matters that have the potential to affect our ratepayers. Through this effort, we have learned that proposed state legislation (SB 623) may be amended to add a Public Goods Charge to water bills in California. The purpose of the new charge would be to create a statewide Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. A Public Goods Charge is a fee that would be applied to water bills to fund public interest programs related to water supply and resources. While CHWD agrees that there is a need for a sensible long-term funding solution to assist disadvantaged communities that do not have safe drinking water, a tax on your water bill is not the only solution.

Capital Improvement Projects Update
Keeping infrastructure up to date and reliable is a huge part of our commitment to provide quality service to our customers. These capital improvement projects are necessary to replace aging underground pipes and ensure that we offer enough capacity to meet water needs. Below is a partial list of capital improvement projects the District has planned for 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mesa Verde High School Transmission Main</td>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baird Way Water Main Replacement Project Installation</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Vista Lane and Highland Avenue Water Main Replacement</td>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise Boulevard Complete Street Improvement Project Phase 2A (work to be performed prior to City of Citrus Heights Project)</td>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dubbed “Project 2030, Water Main Replacements,” a Project 2030 Team has formed under the leadership of District Engineer Missy Pieri, who will work with technical experts (engineering and finance specialists) and a Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) to: 1) inventory & assess the health of CHWD’s water mains; 2) identify phasing options to replace water mains; 3) identify funding options (e.g., debt serve versus pay-as-you-go); 4) provide a policy recommendation to CHWD’s Board of Directors; 5) finalize an Implementation Action Plan. For more information about Project 2030, please go to chwd.org/project2030.
**Strategic Planning item: New Groundwater Wells**

The District is actively looking for suitable properties to build its next groundwater production well. Increasing the number of groundwater supply wells will add system reliability and drought protection, along with the flexibility to partner in regional conjunctive use and storage projects to strengthen our water supply.

**Do you know where you meter box is?**

[Image of a water meter]

Your water meter is just below the ground in a rectangular box located in your lawn, yard landscaping or driveway. It is important for you as a CHWD customer to know where this meter box is located so that you can make sure to keep the access lid clear. There should be no plants, bark, gravel, or any other material covering the lid to your meter box. By having the lid clear, it is easier and safer for CHWD workers to obtain the meter reading. It also keeps your costs as a ratepayer low. When boxes are covered and inaccessible, it can require CHWD workers to have to revisit your property. While this may not seem like a big deal, when CHWD workers have to revisit many homes due to inaccessible meter boxes, CHWD’s costs increase. Keeping your meter box clear is a win-win for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

**CHWD Offering FREE Landscape Courses**

Are you interested in learning the best ways to maintain your summer landscape and save water all year long? CHWD is partnering with the City of Citrus Heights to offer two FREE workshops in June! Each course is three hours long and will be held at the Citrus Heights Community Center, 6300 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights.

- June 10, 9 AM – 12 PM: Getting the Best Yard with the Least Water
- June 24, 9 AM – 12 PM: Designing Eco-Friendly Landscapes and Water-Wise Irrigation Systems

Please visit our website at [www.chwd.org](http://www.chwd.org) for more details and to register for these FREE workshops.

**CHWD Welcomes New Employees**

CHWD extends a warm welcome to our newest employees. **Ricky Kelley**, Water Distribution Operator I. After working as a temporary employee for the District, we are excited to welcome Ricky to the CHWD Family as a regular full time employee. **Alberto Preciado**, Senior Accountant. Alberto joins CHWD, bringing with him nearly 10 years of experience in Governmental Accounting. After graduating college, he began his career as an auditor in a firm specializing in governmental audits. There, he obtained valuable knowledge while auditing counties, cities, special districts, and nonprofit agencies for four and a half years. He then joined the finance department with the City of Tustin in Orange County for nearly five years. **John Spinella**, Senior Construction Inspector. John grew up in Citrus Heights and graduated from San Juan High School. He has over 17 years of experience in the water industry, including field operations experience at neighboring Fair Oaks Water District.
Bill Payment Options

CHWD provides several convenient ways for you to pay your water bill:

- Online at www.chwd.org/payment – A quick and secure way to pay your bill with a credit or debit card. The webpage is VeriSign certified, assuring a high level of security for your transaction. Visit the website to sign up for this option.

- By Telephone at 916-725-6873 – Pay your bill 24 hours a day with your credit or debit card free of charge.

- At the District Office – Pay with cash, check, money order or credit card in person during regular business hours. After hours, drop non-cash or non-money order payments in the payment box. In addition, you can mail in your payment to the District office.

- Autopay – This free, easy and convenient option ensures you will pay your bill on time, every time because each payment is automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. For more information on this option, call 916-725-6873 or visit www.chwd.org/eft

Rebates are Still Available!

There are still opportunities for you to save with CHWD rebates. Consider replacing the old, less water-efficient toilets in your home with ultra-low flush (ULF) or high efficiency toilets. These toilets only use 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) and 1.28 gpf compared to 3.5 gpf or higher on older, less efficient models! You may be eligible for a rebate of up to $75 upon replacement. For an application for the toilet rebate, call 916-725-6873.

In addition, CHWD has partnered with SMUD to offer rebates on high-efficiency clothes washing machines. This program, processing and payment of rebates, are administered entirely by SMUD. For more information on how to apply and which machines qualify, call SMUD at 1-888-742-7683.

For more details and online resources for rebates, visit www.chwd.org/our-water/rebates/