



# ON TAP Newsletter

Volume 20 Issue 8, August 2014

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael Safranski, President  
Edward Mandich, Vice President

Glenn Acosta, Director  
Stephen Dopudja, Director  
James Haselton, Director

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

Hector Ruiz

## **HAVE YOU HEARD... WE'RE IN A DROUGHT**

Drought conditions in California are nothing new, especially in the southern, semi-arid parts of the State. Actually, from the years 1918 to 2009, there have been nine multi-year droughts of a large scale. This year, the Drought has been severe throughout the State and it has been a focus both on national and local media sources. The following actions have been taken by the State in direct response to the Statewide Drought's impact over the past seven months, as well as to meet expectations of the forthcoming months:

**January 17, 2014** - Governor Brown declared a Drought State of Emergency, issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency after record dry conditions project that 2014 will be the driest year on record, and called for a voluntary 20% reduction in water usage.

**April 25, 2014** - Governor Brown issued a Proclamation of a Continued State of Emergency and an Executive Order which called on the State to redouble state drought action plans.

**July 28, 2014** - The State Water Board Drought Emergency Regulations became effective. Designed to reduce outdoor water waste, increase conservation efforts, and limit outdoor irrigation, the Emergency Regulations prohibit the following:

- Causing runoff as a result of excess outdoor watering;
- Use of a hose without a shut off nozzle;
- Application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks, and;
- Use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, unless the water is re-circulated.

The State Water Board regulations also include daily fines of:

- Up to **\$10,000** for Local Water Agencies that do not enforce the Regulations.
- Up to **\$500** for Customers that violate the Regulations; fines assessed by Local Water Agencies (read below for more details).

## ***TCWD's Actions in Response to the Emergency Regulations***

After Governor Brown's declaration in January, the District responded by reminding their customers to practice Water Conservation by communicating through its website, monthly newsletters, the Water Awareness Event in May, and by responding to customer phone calls and conducting site visits.

TCWD's response to the State's Emergency Regulations of reducing excessive outdoor water waste and runoff and limiting outdoor irrigation calls for a **Level One Water Supply Shortage/Water Watch Condition**, which includes:

- (1) *Watering Schedule of 4 Days per Week. It is important to note that at this time, the District has not designated the specific four days of the week.***
- (2) *All non-essential water use will cease;***
- (3) *The District's Permanent Provisions which meet the State Water Board's requirements.***

To comply with Level One, the District's goal is to work with its customers to meet these requirements and to improve their Water Use Efficiency (WUE) by being water-smart and doing more with less water. The District plans to help our customers by leaving door

hangers at residences that are violating provisions of the Ordinance's Level One. These door hangers are reminders that are designed to assist the customer to address a specific Level One requirement.

Although the Statewide Drought is a serious issue, the District also understands that some of these violations may go unseen as they occur during your personal work schedules. The District will make repeated attempts to contact, educate, inform, and work with customers to comply with the State Water Board Emergency Regulations and the District's Ordinance. However, if after these repeated attempts, a lack of cooperation, willful violations, or failure to make a good faith effort to comply by a customer, then the District will consider issuing a Written Notice of Violation and applicable penalties and fines.

The District is committed to the active and continued monitoring of the drought situation which includes the review of customer usage anomalies, regional reservoir levels and storage supplies; communication and ongoing work with its customers to comply with the District's Water Conservation Ordinance; coordination with regional and local wholesale suppliers (MET and MWDOC), as well as with other South County water agencies to further collaborate on regional projects and means for reducing water usage.

In order to assist our customers to meet the mandated requirements of these emergency regulations and reduce their water usage, the District participates in WUE Program Rebates through MWDOC for specific devices, the Turf Removal Rebate Program, and the Water Smart Home Certification Program, which involves conducting free surveys of customer's indoor and outdoor water use to provide water-saving recommendations.

Please visit our website at [www.tcwd.ca.gov/customer-service/conservation-rebates](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov/customer-service/conservation-rebates) to learn more about these Rebates. As always, if you have any questions concerning the Statewide Drought, please feel free to contact us. To report an issue, please use the website link on the District's website homepage or contact our Conservation Hotline at (949) 858-0277.

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items are highlights or matters discussed at the July 16, 2014, Regular Board Meeting:

- Approval of Conditional Will Serve Letter for APN 842-122-03 (Johnson Residence)
- Discussion concerning the SoCalGas Easement Request for Installation of Advanced Meter Infrastructure at the Dove Reservoir Parcel
- Public Hearing and Subsequent Approval of the FY2014/2015 Undeveloped Land/Water Standby Assessment.
- District Website Upgrade Project status update.
- Approval of Legal Services Rate Increases from Bowie, Arneson, Wiles & Giannone
- Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line status update.
- Baker Water Treatment Plant status update.
- Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility Project status update.
- Discussion concerning Statewide Drought Conditions.
- Discussion concerning California Special Districts' Association 2014 Board Elections
- Discussion concerning MET Director Nominating Committee.

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items are highlights or matters discussed at the July 31, 2014, Special Board Meeting:

- Approval of Resolution No. 2014-1204 – Resolution of the Board of Directors of Trabuco Canyon Water District Declaring and Implementing a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage/Water Watch Condition and Authorizing Action Necessary to Implement and Enforce Such Condition.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Regular Meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's Administrative Facility, which is located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.