



May is Water Awareness Month

Are you water efficient?

Call the WRASBC for a FREE irrigation check.

Over 50% of residential water use is for landscapes.

Spring and Summer Conservation Activities

- Use native plants or plants that require little water to thrive in our region.
- Plant turf grass only in areas where people will use it actively for recreation.
- Organize your landscape into hydro-zones. Hydro-zones are areas of landscape with plant and vegetation that have similar water requirements. This prevents over-watering some plants and under-watering others.
- Keep soil healthy and add compost to prevent water loss through evaporation.
- If watering with a hose, make sure it has a shut-off nozzle. (FREE from WRASBC)
- Water in the morning to prevent water loss due to evaporation. Avoid watering when it is windy.

Other tips:

Check water bills for any instances of high water use, as this may be an indication of a leak.

If so, call the WRASBC for a FREE leak check.

What a Difference a Year Makes

Every year is different for water management in California.

The 2012-2016 water years were among the driest and warmest on record. 2017 was the wettest year of record for much of California, with thousands of water managers struggling to store as much water as possible in reservoirs and aquifers.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared an end to the five-year drought last April, but most climatologists and forecasters say drought-like conditions have returned. The U.S. Drought Monitor, which is compiled by multiple federal agencies, says an estimated 45 percent of the state is in moderate to severe drought, covering more than 24 million Californians. The hardest hit areas are Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties.

“We’re in a ‘little D’ drought, or at the beginning of a ‘little D’ drought,” said Michelle Mead of the National Weather Service in Sacramento.

What’s preventing a “big D” drought – where dramatic conservation measures are ordered? It’s partly the state’s reservoirs, most of which are at their historic averages because of last winter’s record rains. “We have a nice cushion,” Mead said.

Still, the return of prolonged dry weather, so soon after the drought officially ended, is sobering. “These days it seems to be hard to get out of that long-term water deficit (even) if we have a wet year now and then,” said Daniel Swain of the UCLA Center for Climate Science. “We have been in an extended period of unusually warm and dry conditions. One might call that a drought.”

In April 2015, during the worst of the last drought, Brown imposed a 25 percent cutback in urban water use. That order was relaxed a year later, and dropped altogether last spring.

Did Brown act too quickly in canceling the drought order? Ellen Hanak, a water expert with the Public Policy Institute of California, doesn’t think so. She said it was increasingly difficult to get Californians to allow their lawns to die following a winter of record rainfall.

Californians might want to get used to having weather patterns seesaw from drought to deluge in a very short time. Climate scientist have been predicting this pattern for over a decade and now we’re seeing it become a reality.

**Water Resources Association
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Representing the City of Hollister, the City of San Juan Bautista, Sunnyslope County Water District, and San Benito County Water District.

WRASBC FREE Services & Rebates:



Turf Removal Rebate

LOCAL FUNDING DEPLETED FOR
TURF REMOVAL REBATE
STATE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE. GO TO:
SAVEOURWATERREBATES.COM

Landscape Hardware Rebates

The Water Resources Association has rebates on hose timers, rain sensors and MP Rotator irrigation nozzles and sprinkler bodies with pressure regulators. 50% rebate (up to \$100) on qualifying products.



Free Water Wise Landscape Plans

The Water Resources Association has FREE water wise landscape plans. Three different garden design concepts (\$500 value). Installing a water wise garden will save water and money, plus they require less maintenance time.

Home Water Survey (Our most popular service!)

The Survey includes: irrigation check, suggested watering schedule, **leak check**, showerheads and faucet aerators, high-quality hose nozzle, water softener assistance

Water Softener Assistance and Rebate Program

The water quality has improved dramatically in the Hollister Urban Area since October 2017. Water softeners are no longer needed! Rebates are available for those customers transitioning to an offsite regeneration service or demolishing their self-regulating water softener that uses salt or potassium. Rebates: \$250-\$300.



Toilet Program (Free Toilets or Rebates)

Customers that have toilets that are 1992 or older qualify. These older toilets use from 3.5—7 gallons of water for each flush. New toilets flush from 1.28—1.6 gallons per flush. The Water Resources Association has free toilets or a \$75 rebate is available when you purchase your own.



Green Business Certification:

The WRASBC is working together with the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, San Benito County Integrated Waste Management and PG&E to assist, recognize and promote businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way.

Additional Programs:

A Water Conservation Specialist is available to give presentations at schools, Service Clubs & local community organizations. Learn about the Water Cycle, our local water supply and water issues locally / state-wide. Fieldtrips to the reclamation plant and water treatment plant can also be arranged.

- **Special Rules & Conditions apply, call for details. Rebates are subject to available funds**

Recology San Benito County Compost Giveaway

Saturday, April 21st 8am-12pm

Veteran's Memorial Park (corner of Hillcrest Road & Memorial Drive)

Limit 32 gallons per household

Residents can receive 32 gallons of compost and must bring their own container and shovel. No early birds and compost will be given away first come, first serve, or until it runs out.

Mix the Recology compost with regular soil/dirt 50:50 ratio