



## Drought Conditions Place a Premium on Water Conservation

With California in the midst of a drought and one of the driest years in history, water officials in Hollister are urging residents to increase their conservation efforts. Rainfall has been below normal for three years, and while local water agencies are not considering mandatory restrictions at this time, they plan to draw on reserves to make

it through the coming year.

Several years ago officials at the San Benito County Water District planned for drought conditions and purchased storage in an out-of-county water bank (underground storage) as well as entering into partnership agreements with neighboring agencies. Together

these actions will help us weather the drought and will help ensure that the HUAWP's new facilities will have sufficient surface water to operate throughout this difficult time. Also, if surface water should continue to experience major shortages beyond the next few years, we have the ability to return to using lower quality groundwater.

## Water Quality Improvements Under Way

Construction has started on the first phase of the Hollister Urban Area Water Project (HUAWP) with work getting under way on the upgrade to the Lessalt Water Treatment plant on Fairview Road. The HUAWP is a collaborative effort to deliver high-quality water to the Hollister area that was approved last year by the City of Hollister, Sunnyslope County Water District and the San Benito County Water District.



Construction is under way on the upgrade of the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant.

Upgrading the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant will allow the facility to treat up to 2 million gallons of water per day (mgd). The project consists of additional filtration, pre-oxidation and chlorination, all of which are required to meet federal water quality regulations. The expanded treatment capabilities will provide additional high-quality water for urban customers. The upgrade

is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The next phase of the HUAWP will be construction of the West Hills Water Treatment plant, a new facility that will treat up to 4.5 mgd of imported surface water. It will be built with the ability to increase its capacity if needed. Construction of the West Hills plant could begin by the end of 2014. Additional pipelines will also be constructed to deliver treated surface water to the Hollister area.

In an immediate conservation effort, local water agencies will be enforcing an established Water Waste Ordinance. The ordinance prohibits the indiscriminate use of water, including washing cars or buildings without a shut-off valve, or irrigation of landscaping and turf between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM.

The Water Resources Association of San Benito County has several programs to assist area residents use water efficiently. Contact them for a FREE Home Leak Check. They will send out a Water Conservation Technician to check your house for water leaks and recommend ways to use water efficiently. The WRASBC can be reached at (831)637-4378 or visit their website for more water saving ideas.



Hollister Urban Area  
**Water Project**  
*Improving Our Water Future*

If you'd like Project Updates emailed to you, send an email to:

**info@hollisterwaterproject.com**

Or call (831) 637-8218 ext. 189

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