



## **Drought Watch Updates - 2014 Calendar Year**

### **December 1, 2014 Update**

The reservoirs are currently at 94% of average storage for this date and 61% of capacity. Consumption is down 18% this week vs. the same week last year. Rainfall this year to date (July 1 - November 30) is 8 inches. Average rainfall for this time of year is 9.63 inches. Last year, we had received 2.62 inches by the end of November.

We have a [new rebate program](#) to help you continue to conserve. Up to \$50 each, \$250 for all five!

- Pool covers
- Hot water recirculating systems
- Organic mulch
- Laundry-to-landscape system components
- Rain barrels

### **November 3, 2014 Update**

The reservoirs are currently at 95% of average storage for this date and 61% of capacity. Consumption is down 25% for the week ending November 2, 2014 versus the same week last year.

### **October 1, 2014 Update**

The reservoirs are currently at 94% of average storage for this date and 64% of capacity. Consumption is down 14% for the week ending September 28, 2014 versus the same week last year. Thank you for conserving!

We have free drought stickers, fliers, and posters in English and Spanish. [You can place an order online here.](#)

Reminder: New outdoor water restrictions are in place.

### **September 2, 2014 Update**

The reservoirs are currently at 92% of average storage for this date and 67% of capacity. Consumption is down 14% this week vs. this same week last year.

Please be aware of the new water restrictions effective August 19.

The MMWD Board of Directors' call for 25% voluntary rationing is still in effect. Customers who are already low water users (65 gallons per person per day for residential customers) do not need to reduce further.

Thank you for continuing to conserve.

### **August 20, 2014 Update: New Conservation Regulations Now In Effect**

In response to the continuing drought, the State Water Resources Control Board announced new emergency regulations in July designed to reduce outdoor water use statewide. To fully comply with the state, on August 19 the MMWD Board of Directors adopted an ordinance amending the water waste section of the district's code.

Most of the new state regulations mirror water waste restrictions MMWD has had in place for some time. However, two changes may affect you: Irrigating between 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. is prohibited, as is using a hose without a shutoff nozzle. We've long recommended that our customers follow these water-saving practices; now, these recommendations are requirements. We appreciate your cooperation!

Prohibited (effective 8/19/14):

1. Irrigating between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., except for system testing and repair
2. Using a hose without a shutoff nozzle
3. Allowing irrigation water to runoff or overspray the irrigated area
4. Hosing down sidewalks, driveways, and other hard-surfaced areas
5. Non-recirculating decorative fountains

### **August 4, 2014 Update**

MMWD's water production for the period February-June 2014 was 15% lower than production for the same period in 2013. Many thanks are due to district customers for quickly heeding the MMWD Board of Directors' January 21 call for voluntary reductions in water use. The board took that action just days after Governor Jerry Brown requested statewide voluntary reductions in water use.

The MMWD Board of Directors' call for 25% voluntary rationing is still in effect. Customers who are already low water users (65 gallons per person per day for residential customers) do not need to reduce further.

### **July 1, 2014 Update**

Total rainfall at Lake Lagunitas for the rainfall year ending June 30 will top out at 33.40 inches, which is about 64% of the annual average. This marks the third consecutive year of below average rainfall, and the reservoir storage levels reflect those low numbers. The MMWD Board of Directors' call for 25% voluntary rationing is still in place. Customers who are already low

water users (65 gallons per person per day for residential customers) do not need to reduce further.

**June 1, 2014 Update**

Although reservoir levels are closer to normal now than they were in January, the district's request for a 25% voluntary reduction in water use since last year is still in effect. Conservation during the dry summer months is especially important. Customers who are already low water users (65 gallons per person per day for residential customers) do not need to reduce further.

**May 1, 2014 Update**

Although rainfall this year is just 66% of average, we received sufficient amounts of rain in February and March to raise reservoir levels to near-normal levels. And we even got a half inch of rain in late April as a bonus.

As we enter the irrigation season, MMWD's water supply situation is much better than that of many parts of California. According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), conditions throughout the state range from moderate to exceptional drought. These conditions are quite evident in the dramatic photos of reservoirs and the Sierra snowpack on the [home page](#) of the California drought information website.

MMWD's request for a 25% voluntary reduction in water use is still in effect, although the Board of Directors will review this request at the end of May.

**April 14, 2014 Update**

Despite no rain in the last week, rainfall runoff contributed to a slight increase in reservoir levels from 81% to 82% of capacity for the week ending April 13. Consumption dropped 13% from the same week one year ago. Thank you for continuing to conserve water.

**April 7, 2014 Update**

Reservoir levels continue to increase slightly and are now at 81% of capacity and 88% of normal. We are reaching the end of the rainy season, and there is no rain predicted in the next ten-day forecast, so please continue to conserve to make our supplies last.

**April 3, 2014 Update**

Reservoir levels have increased to about 80% of capacity with the recent storm dropping 5.03 inches of rain. Our annual total rainfall to date is now 31.94 inches compared to the average of 47.05 for this date. Please continue to conserve to make our supplies last. The 25% voluntary water use reduction request is still in place.

**March 27, 2014 Update**

Reservoir levels remain at 78% of capacity compared with an average storage of 91% for this date. Two days of recent rain (March 25-26) added 0.88 inches to our annual total to date of 27.79 inches. Average rainfall for this date is 45.70 inches. Please continue to conserve to make our supplies last. The 25% voluntary water use reduction request is still in place.

**March 16, 2014 Update**

Reservoir levels are now at 78% of capacity and 86% of average for this date, compared with 95% and 104%, respectively, at this time last year. Please continue to conserve to make our supplies last. The 25% voluntary water use reduction request is still in place.

**March 12, 2014 Update**

Reservoirs continue to fill and consumption is still down compared to last year. Thank you for continuing to conserve. The higher reservoir levels, now at 77% of capacity and 86% of average for this date, are encouraging, but storage is still below last year when the reservoirs were at 96% of capacity on this date. With no rain in the immediate forecast, we need to make our supply last as long as possible and ask all customers to continue conserving. The 25% voluntary water use reduction request is still in place.

**March 5, 2014 Update**

Thanks to unusually heavy rains over the last four weeks, MMWD's reservoir levels have continued to rise. With the reservoirs now at 74% of capacity, up from a low of 53% four weeks ago, we can confidently state that mandatory rationing will not be needed this year. However, while we are out of the danger zone, both rainfall and reservoir levels are still below average and the 25% voluntary water use reduction request is still in place. We will continue to provide updates as conditions warrant.

**Feb. 13, 2014 Update**

Recent heavy rains on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed significantly improved our water supply picture. Nearly 15 inches fell February 5-9, raising the reservoir levels from 53% of capacity to 66%; average is 84%. Total rainfall year to date, while improved, is still below average. The 25% voluntary reduction in water use requested by MMWD's Board of Directors in January is still in effect and in line with the governor's statewide drought emergency declaration.

**Background**

On January 21, 2014 the MMWD Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution calling for an immediate 25% voluntary reduction in water as an initial phase of the district's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. There will be no changes in the rates with the voluntary reduction plan. MMWD also formed a Board Drought Task Force to respond to the drought and look at long-term water supply options.

In calling for voluntary rationing, the board acknowledges on-going conservation efforts by residential customers using 6 CCFs (4,500 gallons) per month, or 12 CCFs per billing period, or less and encourages them to continue their good work.

MMWD's reservoirs are below average due to record low rainfall. We received just 10.68 inches of rain in 2013, the lowest calendar year rainfall in the district's history, much lower than the prior record of 19 inches in 1929 and substantially lower than the annual average of 52 inches. As a result, the district's reservoirs contained approximately 42,762 acre-feet of water on January 27, which is 54% of capacity and 34% below average for the same date.

Under the district's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the board may activate water use reductions up to 25% mandatory rationing depending on total reservoir storage on April 1. Unless a substantial amount of rainfall and runoff occurs between now and then, storage levels are projected to be below 40,000 acre-feet, the level that calls for 25-percent mandatory rationing.