



# SAN GABRIEL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

DROUGHT EDITION

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## SGCWD PREPARED FOR DROUGHT

**California is known for cycles of rainy and dry years.** Due to below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures the past two years, the state is once again in a drought. The severity varies across the state, but as of July 1, 2021, Los Angeles County is experiencing extreme drought – one step below the severe drought classification.

These dry conditions demonstrate the need for all of us to work together to conserve water and protect our supplies. The District's careful, long-term planning helps ensure a reliable supply for our customers. The District recently completed an update to its Urban Water Management Plan, which examines available supplies and anticipated demand over the next five years. The Urban Water Management Plan is available on our website, [www.sgcwd.com](http://www.sgcwd.com), for those who would like to learn more.

San Gabriel County Water District relies on groundwater from the Main San Gabriel and Raymond Basins for 100% of our supply. These aquifers can meet our needs but using water as efficiently as possible now will help sustain this vital resource for the future. For example, reducing water use and fixing leaks both outside and inside will reduce demand. Investing in upgrades such as high-efficiency toilets and weather-based smart irrigation controllers are another way customers can limit water use. By taking these small actions, we can ensure our water supply remains sustainable even during droughts.

## HELP YOUR LAWN SHAPE UP FOR SUMMER

**Many people enjoy green grass and gardens, but it takes a lot of water to maintain them.** As much as 70 percent of all water in Southern California is used outside, and that often peaks during the hot, dry summer months. An irrigation system checkup is a great way to make sure you are using only the amount of water needed and avoiding waste



### Timing is everything!

Run your irrigation system early in the morning or after sunset to ensure plants receive the water they need. Watering in the middle of the day when the sun is strongest increases the amount of water lost to evaporation.



### Check it out!

Small changes in water pressure and even settling soil can result in water spraying on sidewalks and driveways instead of grass and plants. Take a few moments to inspect sprinkler heads during your next scheduled watering and make adjustments as necessary.



### Look for leaks!

Take a look around your lawn while the irrigation system is operating. Look for leaks and broken sprinkler heads. If you notice patches of grass that are greener or grow faster than other areas, it could be a sign of an underground leak. Leaks can be a significant source of wasted water.



### Ditch the grass!

Did you know lawns need at least twice as much water as flower beds equipped with drip irrigation? Consider saving water by replacing your turf with California-friendly landscaping.



### Grab a bucket!

While waiting for water to heat up before a shower, collect the water in a bucket and use it on your plants.





**THE MISSION** of San Gabriel County Water District is to provide high quality water for residential, commercial, industrial and fire protection uses that meets or exceeds all local, state and federal standards and to provide courteous and responsive service at the most reasonable cost to our customers.

## FIXING SMALL LEAKS NOW can avoid bigger problems later

**Whether inside or outside, leaks are a significant source of water waste.** Many leaks go undetected or are ignored because they appear minor. But as leaks grow, the cost to fix them also increases. Get ahead of the game by regularly checking the condition of your pipes, faucets, toilets and appliances to make sure they are in good working order.



### Food Coloring Test:

**Some leaks may be tricky to locate. A simple food coloring test can identify leaks that may be difficult to see with the naked eye.**

To determine if a toilet has a slow leak, add a few drops of food coloring into the water tank. If the color shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a small but consistent leak. In many cases, this can easily be repaired by replacing the flapper in the tank.



## NEW TECHNOLOGY CAN REDUCE OUTDOOR WATER USE

**For most people, new technology refers to smartphones, computers and other electronics.**

Believe it or not, technological advancements can help you save water. While many people look for the latest and greatest when it comes to smartphones, you may want to consider upgrading your irrigation system instead.



**Drip irrigation can save significant amounts of water when it comes to watering trees or shrubs.** These systems slowly water around plants, allowing the water to be absorbed into the ground and reach the roots. Since this method only applies water where needed, **drip irrigation systems can cut water use anywhere from 20% to 60%** compared to traditional spray irrigation systems. Drip irrigation is ideal for yards with desert-friendly landscaping.

**While drip irrigation works great for watering plants, shrubs and trees, sprayers still provide the most efficient coverage for turf.** Traditional systems use fixed spray nozzles that create mist. As a result, the water can be blown by the wind to driveways and walkways, and some of that water is lost to evaporation. Newer rotating head sprinklers spray small streams of water to create larger drops that are less likely to be affected by the wind. This method also makes it easier for the water to be absorbed into the ground.



### Smart Irrigation Controllers:

**Another opportunity to reduce water use is through smart irrigation controllers.** These devices use real-time weather data to calculate how much water is needed and adjusts irrigation schedules accordingly, saving water while still maintaining a healthy landscape.

All of these options will help reduce water use. Combining multiple options will help the savings to add up.



# HELP CONSERVE WATER & SAVE MONEY!

**You can help preserve our water supply during dry times by reducing the amount of water you use.** One way to limit demand and protect the water supply is to replace older and less efficient toilets, clothes washers and irrigation systems. San Gabriel County Water District customers are eligible for multiple rebates for water-saving devices through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. These devices save water and money in the long run, and the rebates help offset initial costs.

## Here are some of the items eligible for rebates:

### Indoor

#### Premium High-Efficiency Toilets (PHET)

that use 1.01 gallons per flush. Older toilets use 5-7 gallons per flush.

**\$40 rebate**



#### High-Efficiency Clothes Washers (HECW)

that use 55% less water than a standard top-loading washer.

**\$85 rebate**



### Outdoor

#### Weather Based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC)

*less than one irrigated acre -*  
Older controllers are not always weather-based or do not have rain sensors.

**\$80 rebate**



#### Rain Barrels

provide water for your plants long after it stops raining.

**\$35 rebate**



Please check [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) for more information about eligible products and how to apply for these and other conservation rebates.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Carlos Cardona**  
*Operations Superintendent*  
*Time with District: 19 years*

**Job duties:** My primary role with San Gabriel County Water District is to plan and supervise the day-to-day job tasks of both the water production and distribution crews. I also manage and inspect all District construction projects to make sure they are completed properly.

**Favorite part of the job:** One of the best parts about our staff is how we all work together as a team to accomplish goals. We are all ready and willing to help each other out. I enjoy soaking up knowledge from our senior managers and helping newer employees learn about the water industry.

**Interesting facts about me:** Even when I'm away from work, I still love the water. On weekends, you can often find me at the beach or in Lake Havasu with my family and friends. I'm also looking forward to cheering on my son as he plays football for the University of Chicago starting this fall.



**Monica Peña**  
*Management Assistant/  
Account Clerk*  
*Time with District: 5 years*

**Job duties:** One of my most important duties is working with Accounts Payable. My job is to keep track of all invoices and charges for the District and make sure those bills are paid promptly.

**Favorite part of the job:** For me, the best part about working for San Gabriel County Water District is the positive atmosphere. We are all friendly and encouraging, which makes the job more enjoyable. But most importantly, I truly feel valued as an employee.

**Interesting facts about me:** My true passion is being a dedicated mom. I have three boys, and they are the world to me. When I'm not in the office, I can usually be found watching them play sports. They make me so proud!





# SAN GABRIEL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Larry Taylor**

President

**Charles DeLaTorre**

Vice President

Board Members

**Mary Cammarano**

**Eric Chan**

**Sabino Cici**

### HOURS

**Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Friday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

*Closed Alternate Fridays*

### CONTACT US

**Address:** 8366 Grand Avenue,  
Rosemead, CA 91770

**Phone:** (626) 287-0341

**Fax:** (626) 287-8524

**[www.sgcwd.com](http://www.sgcwd.com)**

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU



We are happy to announce that our drive-up window has reopened. Customers can once again enjoy this convenient option to pay bills in person without having to leave their vehicles. The window is open during our regular business hours, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and alternating Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The District temporarily suspended this service in March 2020 as a precautionary measure to protect the health and safety of our customers during the coronavirus pandemic. However, as state and county restrictions due to COVID-19 have eased, San Gabriel County Water District has restored this service for the benefit of our customers.

While our lobby remains closed to the public for the time being, customers can pay bills online 24/7 by visiting our website, [www.SGCWD.com](http://www.SGCWD.com). In addition, we are ready and available to assist customers with any questions. Please call us at **(626) 287-0341** or email [info@sgcwg.com](mailto:info@sgcwg.com), and we will be happy to help.

## ABOUT SAN GABRIEL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Formed on November 21, 1921 as a "County Water District" under the County Water Act of 1913, San Gabriel County Water District celebrates 100 years of service to our community.

Originally created to serve customers in the City of San Gabriel and some nearby unincorporated areas, the District later added portions of Rosemead and Temple City.

The District is fortunate to be supplied by groundwater from the Main San Gabriel and Raymond Groundwater Basins, which provides a reliable source for drinking water, even in times of drought. Today, the District serves about 45,000 people.



### SERVICE AREA

2,680 acres



### METERS

9,287 water connections



### RESERVOIRS

3



### MAINLINES

82 miles of pipes



### COMBINED STORAGE

12.8 million gallons



### SOURCE OF SUPPLY

6 active wells