

# SAN GABRIEL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

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## ARE YOU WATERING YOUR LAWN TOO MUCH?

During the cooler winter months, plants need less water than they do during the hot, dry summer months. Providing the same amount of water to your lawn year-round can actually do more harm than good. Instead of penetrating deep into the soil, grass roots will remain closer to the surface. This can lead to dead patches of grass in areas with poor drainage. Irrigation timers should be adjusted seasonally to provide less water in the winter months.

There are other ways to limit water use and save money at the same time. Here are a few easy adjustments to help reduce water use outside your home:



Turn sprinklers off when it is windy outside to prevent water from blowing onto sidewalks and driveways instead of landscaping.



Plant native or drought tolerant plants.



Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of washing down with a hose.



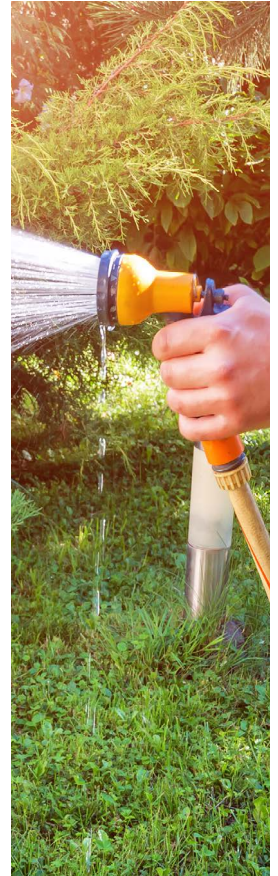
Use a weather-based irrigation controller.



Use a bucket of water to wash cars instead of a hose.



Install a soaker hose or drip irrigation to water plants more efficiently and reduce evaporation.



These conservation tips can help save thousands of gallons of water. While these changes may not seem like much individually, the savings quickly add up.

## FIX LEAKS NOW BEFORE THEY BECOME BIGGER PROBLEMS

The biggest source of wasted water comes from leaks. They often go undetected or are ignored because they are small. But leaks of any size can turn into a big expense. Make sure to get ahead of the game by regularly checking the condition of irrigation pipes, hoses, and indoor devices to make sure they're in good order.

### Food Coloring Test

Some leaks may be trickier to find than others. This nifty food coloring test helps point out leaks that may be difficult to see with the naked eye.

To determine if a toilet is leaking, add a few drops of food coloring into the water tank. If the color shows up in the bowl, this indicates leakage. In many cases, this can be easily fixed by replacing the flapper in the tank.





**By proactively replacing older pipelines, SGCWD reduces maintenance costs, avoids the potential for unexpected repairs and service disruptions and saves money in the long run.**

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

### Safeguarding our water supply is a commitment

Safeguarding our water supply is a commitment San Gabriel County Water District takes seriously. By proactively identifying capital improvement opportunities and continuously seeking ways to improve service, the district works to ensure the quality and reliability of your water today and far into the future.

The largest component of our water system relies on 82 miles of pipelines to deliver water from our treatment and storage facilities to our customers. To ensure the reliability of our distribution system and avoid ruptures that need costly repairs, San Gabriel County Water District regularly replaces outdated water lines.



## 2019 MAINLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

In 2019, SGCWD embarked upon three mainline replacement projects. These upgrades included:

💧 **1430 feet** of 8" ductile iron pipe on Gladys Avenue. This improved service for 57 customers and included the replacement of two fire hydrants.

💧 **355 feet** of 8" ductile iron pipe on Frandsen Street and 405 feet of 8" ductile iron pipe on Pondosa Avenue. This improved service for 20 customers and included the replacement of two fire hydrants.

💧 **1786 feet** of 8" ductile iron pipe on Delta Avenue. This improved service for 66 customers and included the replacement of four fire hydrants.



## NEW METERS

### To offer improved service

As technology continues to improve, San Gabriel County Water District looks for new ways to improve service while reducing costs for our customers. One project that will cover both these goals is the replacement of existing water meters.

SGCWD is in the middle of a multi-year project to convert to advanced water meters. While crews will eventually visit every home and business connection, the work should cause minimal disruption to customers. Water meters are placed outside buildings, so residents will not need to be home while crews replace them. Crews will temporarily turn the water off to remove the old meter and install the new meter. In most cases, this work will be complete in less than half an hour.

Once all customers are using the advanced meters, there are several advantages. Meters can be read remotely, instead of having crews go through neighborhoods to collect this information. Advanced meters also provide more accurate and more timely billing. These meters are also capable of informing the District offices if a leak is suspected. This could save customers from costly repairs and large water bills.



## WELL UPGRADES

### Ensure a more reliable water supply

San Gabriel County Water District draws water from multiple wells across its service area. This allows us to deliver the highest quality water possible while ensuring a reliable supply to meet demand.

In order to provide these redundancies to keep the water flowing whenever you need it, SGCWD works to keep these various wells in optimal condition. In 2019, the District completed a refurbishment project at Well 11.

This work included the removal of the old pump, motor, brush and bail well. Once this was complete, new equipment and electrical components were then installed. These upgrades will reduce downtime and ongoing maintenance costs at Well 11 while increasing efficiency. This results in improved reliability and lower overall costs for our customers.



## INNOVATION AT SGCWD EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Necessity is the mother of invention, and that's clearly the case at San Gabriel County Water District.

The American Water Works Association recently presented SGCWD Assistant General Manager Casey Feilen with one of its "Gimmicks and Gadgets Award." This national organization holds a contest each year for employees in the water industry who create devices or simplify processes designed to improve efficiencies.

Using PVC piping, a hose, a bicycle pump and other items, Feilen created a device that will allow water workers to change the valves on certain chemical tanks without draining them. This avoids potentially dangerous worker interactions with water treatment chemicals, creating a safer workplace. It also avoids disposing the chemicals and then replacing them once the tank is repaired.

AWWA presented Feilen with the Third Place Award in this year's contest. He was presented with a plaque and \$300 check during the AWWA Annual Conference in St. Louis this past October. The organization also shared his invention and process with other water districts across the country, allowing other employees nationwide to benefit from the tool developed at San Gabriel County Water District.







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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Larry Taylor**, President  
**Eric Chan**, Vice President  
**Mary Cammarano**, Board Member  
**Sabino Cici**, Board Member  
**Charles DeLaTorre**, Board Member

### HOURS:

**Monday-Thursday**, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**Friday**, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
*Closed Alternate Fridays*

### OFFICE CLOSURES

*President's Day – Monday, February 18*  
*Memorial Day – Monday, May 22*

### CONTACT US:

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 Rosemead, CA 91770  
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**Fax:** (626) 287-8524  
[www.sgcwd.com](http://www.sgcwd.com)

## GET MONEY TO HELP SAVE WATER



**Did you know** that you can get money to help offset the cost of water-saving upgrades? Metropolitan Water District of Southern California now offers San Gabriel County Water District customers rebates for turf replacement and the purchase of water-saving devices.

These rebates are available for both residential and commercial customers. Eligible projects range from turf replacement to the purchase of low-flow toilets. The amount of money available varies depending on the scope of the project and the resulting water savings.

For specific details and application information, visit [www.SoCalWaterSmart.com](http://www.SoCalWaterSmart.com).

## ABOUT SAN GABRIEL WATER DISTRICT

The District was formed on November 21, 1921 as a "County Water District" under the County Water Act of 1913.

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**  
9,250 water connections



**RESERVOIRS**  
3



**MAINLINES**  
82 miles of pipes



**COMBINED STORAGE**  
12.8 million gallons



**SOURCE OF SUPPLY**  
6 active wells