



May 2015

## IMMEDIATE WATER CONSERVATION MANDATE

UPUD would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for their continued water conservation efforts during this severe drought. Due to these efforts, UPUD was able to meet and exceed the State's required 20% reduction in water use in 2014. In order to continue to meet the State's conservation requirements, the District is mandating a 25% reduction in potable water use from 2013 usage. In an effort to meet this mandate, the UPUD Board of Directors voted on April 15, 2015 to implement 'Stage 2' of the UPUD Mandatory Water Conservation Plan, Ordinance #2014-01. A copy of this ordinance is enclosed. Agricultural water users are asked to reduce their water consumption by a mandatory 20% reduction from 2013 usage.

It is critical that all residents do what they can to use water wisely to maximize supplies and protect our water reserves. Following are some conservation tips and websites for assistance with your conservation efforts.

### CONSERVATION TIPS

#### Outdoors

- Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.
- Do not over-water your lawn.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture.
- Aerate your lawn: Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- Check outdoor faucets and hoses for leaks.
- Check automatic sprinklers for leaks, and make sure they are not running when it is raining.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose to clean sidewalks or driveways
- If you have a swimming pool, use a cover. By so doing, you can cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- Do not pour toxic chemicals (such as cleaning products, motor oil, weed killers, or paints) down the drain. Dispose of them properly. Proper disposal is key to water conservation because water is easily contaminated. One gallon of improperly disposed motor oil can contaminate one million gallons of fresh water.
- Use drip irrigation.
- Plant low water-use plants.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- Use a hose nozzle to turn off the water while you wash your car.

## Inside your Home

- Fully load the dishwasher and clothes washer before running.
- When washing dishes by hand, or when brushing your teeth, do not leave the water running.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in a microwave instead of running hot water over the food.
- Use water-efficient showerheads
- Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants or outdoor plants.
- Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet. You can save this running water too for watering your indoor plants.
- Choose water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.

## In Your Community

- Report significant water losses from broken pipes, open fire hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or to the District.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Encourage schools to develop and promote water conservation.
- Support projects that use reclaimed waste water for irrigation and other uses.

Water saving tips and conservation information are also available at the following websites:

- [www.calaverasconserves.com](http://www.calaverasconserves.com)
- [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)
- [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com)
- [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)
- [www.cuwcc.org](http://www.cuwcc.org)
- [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

If you have any questions or need assistance with water use issues or efforts to conserve water, please contact our office:

**Union Public Utility District  
339 Main Street  
Murphys, CA 95247  
(209) 728-3651**

**Thank you for your continued efforts in conserving our greatest asset,  
“Our Water”!!!**