



## DROUGHT CONDITIONS

**HAVE YOUR  
IRRIGATION SYSTEM  
CHECKED BY THE  
WRASBC BEFORE  
SUMMER!**

**FREE**

**SAVE  
MONEY AND  
WATER!**

**CALL 637-4378**

**TO SCHEDULE AN  
APPOINTMENT**

## Drought persists in California

With California entering a third year of drought and its reservoirs at low levels, the federal government has announced plans to deliver minimal amounts of water through the Central Valley Project, putting many farmers on notice that they should prepare to receive no water from the system this year.

The federal Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the project's dams and canals, announced a zero-water allocation for irrigation districts that supply many farmers across the Central Valley. Cities that receive water from the project in the Central Valley and parts of the Bay Area were allocated 25% of their historical water use.

After a wet start to the rainy season in October and December, the state has gone through an extremely dry stretch in January and much of February.

Without those critical months of snow and rain, the state has less to count on to boost major reservoirs, which were already low after two dry years.

Last February, the Bureau of Reclamation started with a 5% allocation for many agricultural water users and a 55% allocation for cities. But the hot, dry conditions last spring shrank inflows from rain and snowmelt much more than projected. The Bureau decided to reduce allocations to 0% for the irrigation districts and 25% for cities—the same reductions the agency is starting with this year.

The Central Valley Project stretches about 400 miles from the Redding area to the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, with 20 dams and about 500 miles of main canals. One of California's two main north-south water conduits, the project pumps water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta near the intakes of the other major system, the State Water Project. The federal government has more than 270 water contracts on the Central Valley Project to supply entities including large irrigation districts, individual farmers and cities.

The reduced water allocations will affect cities in the Central Valley and parts of the Bay Area served by the Santa Clara Valley Water Agency, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District and **San Benito County Water District**.

The Bureau of Reclamation said its initial allocations for the Central Valley Project, which could still change, are based on estimates of how much water will be available from rain, snow and reservoirs. The total amount of water stored in project's largest reservoirs has dropped significantly over the last year.

December storms brought heavy snow to the Sierra Nevada, but the snowpack has since dwindled to 64% of average for this time of year.

Summer is when water use is at its highest. Landscape irrigation accounts for over 50% of residential water use. Have your irrigation system checked by the Water Resources Association San Benito County (WRASBC). **It's a FREE service!** The WRASBC can assess if your irrigation system is working properly, set your controller and make sure water is being used efficiently and not running off onto streets or sidewalks. **Call and schedule your appointment today at (831) 637-4378.**

Here are some irrigation tips to follow:

- Our local clay soils are a little tricky to irrigate properly. Most pop-up sprinkler heads put too much water on at one time and create runoff within minutes of the irrigation system turning on. It is best to have the sprinklers scheduled for short intervals. Schedule two to three start times for short run times (2-4 minutes). If your landscape is planted on a slope, it's best to try a two minute run time and even less if the slope is severe.
- Use native plants or plants that require little water to thrive in our region.
- Plant turf grass only in areas where people will use it actively for recreation.
- Organize your landscape into hydro-zones. Hydro-zones are areas of landscape with plant and vegetation that have similar water requirements. This prevents over-watering some plants and under-watering others.
- Keep soil healthy and add compost to prevent water loss through evaporation.

**WATER  
RESOURCES  
ASSOCIATION  
SAN BENITO  
COUNTY**

**Visit:  
[www.wrasbc.org](http://www.wrasbc.org)**

**Call:  
(831) 637-4378**

## WRASBC FREE Services & Rebates:

### Landscape Hardware Rebates

The Water Resources Association has rebates on hose timers, rain sensors and MP Rotator irrigation nozzles and sprinkler bodies with pressure regulators. 50% rebate (up to \$100) on qualifying products.



### Free Water Wise Landscape Plans

The Water Resources Association has FREE water wise landscape plans. Three different garden design concepts (\$500 value). Installing a water wise garden will save water and money, plus they require less maintenance time.

### Home Water Survey

#### (Our most popular service!)

The Survey includes: irrigation check, suggested watering schedule, **leak check**, showerheads and faucet aerators, high-quality hose nozzle, water softener assistance

### Water Softener Assistance and Rebate Program

Have a WRASBC technician inspect and check your water softener to make sure it is set properly for hardness levels. Rebates are available for those customers transitioning to an offsite regeneration service or demolishing their self-regulating water softener that uses salt or potassium. Rebates: \$250-\$300

### Toilet Program (Free Toilets or Rebates)

Customers that have toilets that are 1992 or older qualify. These older toilets use from 3.5—7 gallons of water for each flush. New toilets flush from 1.28—1.6 gallons per flush. The Water Resources Association has free toilets or a \$75 rebate is available when you purchase your own.



### Green Business Certification:

The WRASBC is working together with the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, San Benito County Integrated Waste Management and PG&E to assist, recognize and promote businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way.



### Additional Programs:

A Water Conservation Specialist is available to give presentations at schools, Service Clubs & local community organizations. Learn about the Water Cycle, our local water supply and water issues locally / state-wide. Fieldtrips to the reclamation plant and water treatment plant can also be arranged.



- **Special Rules & Conditions apply, call for details. Rebates are subject to available funds**

## Don't use your toilet as a trash can!

### Medication Disposal Kiosks

#### Hollister Police Department

- 395 Apollo Way, Hollister, CA 95023
- Monday 9 am - 5 pm
- Tuesday to Thursday 8 am - 5 pm
- Friday 8 am - 4 pm

#### iCare Pharmacy

- 920 Sunnyslope Rd, Hollister, CA 95023
- Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### San Benito Sheriff's Office

- 2301 Technology Pkwy, Hollister, CA 95023
- Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Drop off any unused, unwanted, or expired medications.



### Sharps Disposal Kiosks



#### Aromas Water District

- 388 Blohm Ave, Aromas, CA 95004
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am to 5 pm

#### San Benito Sheriff's Office

- 2301 Technology Pkwy, Hollister, CA 95023
- Monday to Friday 8 am - 5 pm

Used sharps must be in an approved sharps container for safe disposal at these locations.

Loose sharps will not be accepted.