



May is Water Awareness Month

Are you water efficient?

Over 50% of residential water use is for landscapes.

Spring and Summer Conservation Activities

- 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.
- If watering with a hose, make sure it has a shut-off nozzle. (FREE from WRASBC)
- Water in the morning to prevent water loss due to evaporation. Avoid watering when it is windy.

Other tips:

Check water bills for any instances of high water use, as this may be an indication of a leak.

If so, call the WRASBC for a FREE leak check.

This Year's Water Supply Outlook is Good!

But water conservation should be a way of life. This is a state that will suffer periodically from drought, and climate change increases the likelihood and severity of drought. Plus our state's ever growing population increases our water demand. We need to make sure that our local groundwater basins have ample water stored in them for the next drought. During the peak year of our most recent drought, our imported water supply was severely limited. Agriculture received a "0" percent allocation and municipal water was 25% of our full allocation. Our groundwater basin got us through the worse of it along with our communities willingness to conserve.

In addition to conserving something we all need to live, water conservation measures translate into electricity savings. The water conservation rate Californians achieved from June 2015 to February 2016 yielded electricity savings of 922,543 megawatt hours, which can power 135,000 homes for an entire year, according to research from the University of California, Davis. The water conservation rate also led to greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 219,653 metric tons, equivalent to removing 50,000 cars from the road for a year. So, water conservation is something that is all-around good for the environment.

The WRASBC encourages our community to embrace wise water use as a daily habit, whether we are experiencing a year of heavy or meager rain. Start by following the water conservation tips below, and visit the WRASBC website for more tips, tools, and incentives – including rebates.

Indoor Conservation Tips

- Fix leaks, including leaky toilets
- Install high-efficiency toilets, aerators on bathroom faucets, and water-efficient shower heads
- Take shorter (5 minute) showers
- Track your water bill and meter to curtail water use
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving
- Use dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only

Additional Outdoor Conservation Tips

*see sidebar

- Recycle indoor water to use on plants
- Refrain from watering your home landscape when it rains
- Replace your grass/turf with water-wise plants
- Use a broom to clean driveways, patios, and sidewalks instead of water from a hose

Call the WRASBC to schedule a FREE irrigation system check and get a FREE soil moisture meter. This device measures moisture at the root level where it counts!

**Water Resources Association
San Benito County
(831) 637-4378**

Representing the City of Hollister, the City of San Juan Bautista, Sunnyslope County Water District, and San Benito County Water District.

“Flushable Wipes” are not!



Headlines about horrifying septic system disasters seem to indicate that “flushable” disposable wipes are in fact not flushable. For example, the 15-ton “fatberg” dislodged from a London sewer last fall was “caked in grease and fortified with wet wipes.”

These stories about costly sewage system clogs have multiplied as more disposable wipe products have hit the market in the past few years. Companies advertise their disposable wipes as “flushable” or “safe for sewer and septic systems,” but independent tests have found otherwise. A 2012 staff report by California’s Orange County Sanitation District noted that “field observations have found [flushable wipes] to be a cause of back-ups within the sewer system leading to sanitary sewer overflows, clogs at lift stations, and disruption within the treatment plant.” The report also summarized the results of the district’s flushability test: “After 24 hours the wipe remained intact and recognizable.”

Avoid flushing any type of wipe, “flushable” or otherwise, down the toilet. This will prevent costly clogs and environmentally damaging overflows at your local sewage system. In fact, it would be best to avoid disposable wipes completely since they produce waste that should end up in a landfill, and more sustainable alternatives (such as your normal dissolves-quickly-in-water toilet paper made of unbleached recycled paper) exist. But if you can’t let go of your wipes, make sure they are properly disposed of — in the trash.

Save the Date: Earth Day Celebration – Saturday, April 20th Veteran’s Memorial Park, 1221 Memorial Drive, Hollister 10:30am – 3:00pm

San Benito County Integrated Waste Management will host the county’s Earth Day Event in partnership with Recology, San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, REACH San Benito Parks Foundation, **Water Resources Association of San Benito County**, Hollister Downtown Association, San Benito County Arts Council, and more!

This event will bring educational resources, art, performance and environmental activities to our community and include: **FREE compost giveaway, FREE E-waste collection, FREE on-site security document shredding, and FREE landscape efficiency ideas and tools to help you save water and \$.**

