

Water Conservation Update

**DROUGHT
CONDITIONS!
USE WATER WISELY!**

Come by the WRASBC Booth at the SBC Fair October 3rd-5th. Learn about our different services and programs to assist you in using water efficiently



**FREE Landscape
Workshop**

**Saturday, October 11th
From 10am-12 noon**

**Fall is a great time to
plant!**

Join Marci & Nick Huston along with the WRASBC at **The GardenMart** 410 Spring Grove Road (Off of Fairview Road)

Topics will include:
Proper ways to Water
Companion Planting
Perennials vs. Annuals
Tour of Gardens
Using plants to attract
Hummingbirds/Butterfly's

***Participants receive 50% off all plant material they purchase on that day.**

Call (831) 637-4378 for reservations!

**NEW REBATE!
Turf Removal Program
(se back of newsletter)**

Make sure to reduce your irrigation times in the fall. Shorter days means less watering!



Water Resources Association of San Benito County

2014 Drought Update

The rainy season officially ended on June 30th. This makes this the driest season (statewide) since the record was set in 1976-1977, which was 42.4% of normal rainfall. Below is a table of seasonal precipitation for this year compared to the average total seasonal precipitation for a selection of major California cities arranged geographically from north to south.

City	2013-2014	Normal	% of Normal
Eureka	20.76"	40.68"	51%
Redding	17.77"	34.42"	52%
Sacramento	10.36"	20.30"	51%
Santa Rosa	14.59"	32.56"	45%
Oakland	10.85"	24.29"	45%
San Francisco	12.65"	23.80"	53%
San Jose	6.34"	15.86"	40%
Hollister	5.19"	13.04"	39%
Fresno	4.81"	11.61"	41%
Bakersfield	2.41"	6.39"	38%
Los Angeles	6.08"	15.00"	41%
San Diego	5.06"	10.31"	49%

The state's reservoirs are ending the season at 69% of normal capacity. This is the 2nd lowest such on record. It was just 45% in 1977 at the end of that water year.

The odds are increasing that El Niño, the powerful climate phenomenon that alters precipitation patterns across the globe, will develop in the Pacific Ocean this year, U.S. government forecasters say.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center recently activated its alert system to issue an El Niño watch. The alert means that conditions in the eastern tropical Pacific are favorable enough that El Niño has a more than a 50% chance of forming by the end of summer or fall. Though it's too early to predict with much confidence, if El Niño re-emerges it could produce wetter weather in the southern United States next winter, bring more rain to California, temper the Atlantic hurricane season and push up global temperatures in 2015, experts say.

The El Niño cycle begins every two to seven years when weak trade winds in the Pacific allow warmer water to build up along the west coast of South America. El Niño conditions often result in higher rainfall in California, but not always. Typically, they cause the jet stream to dip south over North America, directing storms to the California coast and across the southern U.S. La Niña, the cycle's cool-water counterpart, is associated with drier weather in those regions.

With the uncertainty of rain for next year, Climate Change and a growing population the only thing we can do is use our water supply efficiently and conserve water at all times. Not just during drought! **Look on the backside of this newsletter for ways you can assist our community maintain a reliable water supply by using water efficiently.**

Water Resources Association
San Benito County
30 Mansfield Road
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 637-4378
www.wrasbc.org

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

WRASBC FREE Services & Rebates:



Turf Removal Rebate

The WRASBC is offering residential and commercial customers rebates in return for reducing the amount of lawn area in their landscapes and replacing with low water use landscapes. The WRASBC will rebate you up to \$1.00 for every square foot of lawn area removed (up to 500 sq'). Lawns must be well maintained before removal.

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 replacing a water softener that is currently operating or demolishing a water softener older than 1999. Newer water softeners are much more efficient with salt, water and electricity. Rebates \$150-\$300



High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebates

These washers use half as much water as traditional top loading clothes washers. These machines also use less detergent and help us protect our groundwater supplies. Energy Star® rated clothes washers qualify. Rebate: \$100

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**