



## May is Water Awareness Month!

### Learn about water:

#### Fragile Waters

At the San Jose Museum of Art in downtown San Jose.

110 South Market Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

#### Photographs by:

Ansel Adams,  
Ernest H. Brooks II, and  
Dorothy Kerper Monnelly.

Thursday, March 16, 2017  
to Sunday, August 6, 2017.

Water is very much on the minds of Californians after six years of drought.

Fragile Waters celebrates this precious, essential resource and encourages dialogue about water conservation. One hundred and seventeen black-and-white photographs by three artists whose works span a century create a powerful collective statement

#### Romero Visitor's Center San Luis Reservoir

The Romero Overlook Visitors Center commands a dramatic panorama of the 385-foot-tall rock and earthfill dam that stores 652 billion gallons of water in San Luis Reservoir. See it while its full!

Watch a multi-slide presentation bring to life the facility's 1962 groundbreaking ceremony presided over by President John F. Kennedy and Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr., or you can request to watch a video from a selection of water topics.

## Water Conservation is a Way of Life

Even in a wet year in California, nature's bounty of water is no longer enough to satisfy all the state's demands. Our water supply improved this year, but recharging overdrafted groundwater basins in the San Joaquin Valley and overcoming the massive deficits suffered by California's ecosystems and endangered fisheries are still lingering issues from six years of drought. Throw in a growing population and climate uncertainty and our states water supply will be in deficit for the foreseeable future.

If the most straightforward definition of drought is the simple mismatch between the amounts of water nature provides and the amounts of water that humans and the environment demand, California is in a permanent drought.

During the height of the drought in 2015 residents were mandated to reduce water consumption by 25%. There were also restrictions on landscape irrigation. Urban landscape irrigation was restricted to two days per week. Many sought relief by taking out lawns and replacing them with drought tolerant, native plants, rocks, wood chips and other materials that lessened water demand. This really helped our community stretch its' water supply. Not only did we meet the state's mandate, we exceeded it! Most of this was achieved by reducing landscape irrigation and tightening up water use around the house.

Fast forward to 2017 and many gardeners are looking forward to working in their gardens after an abundance of rain this winter. But even with all the rain, we still need to conserve water. If you have lived in California for any length of time, you know droughts come and go. When droughts come, we all cut back on our water use. When droughts go, it's easy to fall back into our water-wasting ways. But we can't afford to do that this time around.

California is certain be in drought again. We don't know when, but it is sure to happen. That's why its good to be proactive and make a water-wise garden now before the next drought. Not only will you save water, but you will save money on your water bill and have less maintenance to do once your garden is established.

Marci Huston, owner of the Garden Mart, anticipates dryness as well. Located in Hollister, the garden center is a one-stop shop for people looking for plants and gardening supplies. Huston's business specializes in products that are low maintenance and drought tolerant. "From our perspective, the drought is not over. Just because we have lots of rain this year doesn't mean we're out of trouble." Huston makes a point of educating customers on how to take care of their plants and will consult with people at their homes. "We will continue to promote the use of low-water plants. We have about 500 kinds."

In San Benito County, landscape irrigation makes up over half of residential water use. Making sure your irrigation system is working efficiently and installing climate appropriate plants in your landscapes can really help our community conserve water.

The WRASBC can assist you by inspecting your irrigation system and making adjustments and recommendations if needed. They also have lists of drought tolerant and native plants that do well in San Benito County. They also have free Water-Wise landscape plans. Three different themes to choose from and each plan is valued over \$500 each.

**Remember, water conservation starts with each and every one of us. We're all in this together!**

**Water Resources Association  
San Benito County  
PO Box 899  
Hollister, CA 95024-0899  
(831) 637-4378**

*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

LOCAL FUNDING DEPLETED FOR  
TURF REMOVAL REBATE AS OF 8/1/15  
STATE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE. GO TO:  
[SAVEOURWATERREBATES.COM](http://SAVEOURWATERREBATES.COM)

### 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**

## May is Water Awareness Month FREE Workshop:



Please join us on Saturday, May 13th from 9am -11am for a seminar on how to install and maintain a water-wise garden. Learn about drought tolerant and native plants that do well in our county.

**Class to be held at: The Garden Mart, 410 Spring Grove Road  
For more information: (831) 801-6049**

**All class participants will receive 30% off all plants on this day, Bring your yard dimensions with photo's!**