



## 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 early 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

Storm after storm has swerved away from California, and drought conditions have started to return.

A persistent storm track has kept winter storms to the north and east of California since December.

All reservoirs in Northern and Central California were filled to near- or above-average levels in mid-February, while levels in Southern California were slightly below average.

However, the Sierra Nevada only had about 44% of its average snow-pack (February measurements) with a lot of ground to make up before the storm season ends in April.

Snowfall during the winter months is like California depositing money into a bank to be used later. The more snow that falls during the winter, the less likely the Golden State will have water issues later in the year.

Reservoirs will decline as long as it stays dry, and we'll soon be waiting for the snowpack to melt to keep the water running for Californians.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center says Northern California will continue deeper into drought through the end of April, citing that the "persistent high pressure over the North Pacific Ocean is expected to continue, diverting storm systems to the north and south and away from California and parts of the Southwest."

Locally, Water Year 2019 (October 2018—September 2019) was 116 per cent of normal. Groundwater elevations, in general, rose throughout the basin. With the exception of the northern portions of the Bolsa and San Juan. Overall, the basin is still recovering from the most recent drought (2013-2016) but at a slower rate than the very wet year we had in 2017. Dry years often are characterized by increased groundwater pumping for agricultural irrigation to offset lack of rainfall and reduced Central Valley Project water that is imported into the county.

**Water efficiency is key all the time**, but especially now. Another dry year will put us right back into serious drought. The first thing you should do is **call the WRASBC for a FREE home leak check and irrigation check.**

**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.*

**DOWN TOWN**



**SPRING CLEAN-UP**

**Saturday**  
**April 18, 2020**  
**8:30 - 11:30 am**

## 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

San Benito County Integrated Waste Management will host the county's

Earth Day Event in partnership with:

**Water Resources Association of San Benito County**

Recology

San Benito County Chamber of Commerce

Hollister Recreation

**And more!**

This event will bring educational resources, art, a green award ceremony and environmental activities to our community and include:

**FREE compost giveaway and workshop, FREE E-waste collection, FREE on-site security document shredding and FREE landscape efficiency ideas and rebates to help you save water and \$**

[www.cosb.us/county-departments/iwm/](http://www.cosb.us/county-departments/iwm/) (831) 636-4110



**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

**APRIL 25, 2020 SATURDAY**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**  
**1221 MEMORIAL DR**  
**HOLLISTER, CA 95023**  
**10:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**BOOTHS | GAMES | ART | FOOD | PERFORMANCES**  
**RECOLOGY'S ENVIRONMENTAL DAY ACTIVITIES 9AM - 1PM**  
**ART POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### Compost Workshop

**Saturday, April 25th from 11am – 12 noon**  
**Veteran's Memorial Park**

Enroll in the compost workshop and enjoy the Earth Day festivities on the same day! Free compost container to those that attend the workshop. Space is limited and sign-up is required. Email [sbcwz@recology.com](mailto:sbcwz@recology.com) or call 408-858-0724.

Otis Johnson is a compost enthusiast and wants to share compost consciousness with other people. As a farmer and landscaper he has a burning desire to expose others to the joy of decomposition and change the way we view waste. Otis is a certified Green Gardener, Master Composter and Master Gardener. He will be leading the workshop.

**Some of the benefits of composting:**

Enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.

Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

Encourages the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create humus, a rich nutrient-filled material.

Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.

