

# Water Features

Goleta Water District News – *Summer 2014*



*2014 – Another Dry Year  
What the District is Doing  
to Protect and Conserve  
Water Resources.*

## Conservation is Critical to Extending Water Supplies During Drought

The Goleta Water District declared a Stage 1 Water Shortage in March and asked all customers to reduce water use by 20%. Our customers' ability to continue their long-standing water thriftiness and keep demand low during this extraordinary dry period is critical to preserving water supplies to meet future customer demand.



**1944**  **2014**

*70 YEARS OF SERVICE*



Message from General Manager John McInnes

# Water Conservation Efforts During an Unprecedented Drought

In March, the District Board of Directors declared a Stage 1 Water Shortage and asked customers to reduce their water use by 20%. Since that time, California has seen unprecedented drought conditions worsen up and down the state. The Sierra snowpack ended the season at 18% of average in May and the State Water Project allocation was set at an historically low 5% for the year.

Through the years, the District has made strategic investments which have resulted in our diverse and robust water supply portfolio. Thus, we entered this drought with a healthy groundwater basin, stored State Water supplies, a recycled water system to offset potable water use, and over a year's worth of supply from Lake Cachuma. However, even a strong portfolio can't sustain high customer demand associated with unseasonable and prolonged hot, dry, and windy weather.

The South Coast, including the District, will receive only 45% of our normal allotment from Lake Cachuma in the coming year. The State Water allocation is also expected to remain critically low. **Given the current drought conditions, the District Board of Directors is scheduled to consider a Stage 2 Water Shortage Emergency declaration at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 9. Such a declaration would include mandatory prohibitions on certain water uses. As always, the public is invited to attend.**

There is never enough water to waste. Conservation is critical to our ability to endure this drought and minimize its impacts on our economy, the environment, and most important, on public health and safety. Our customers have a long history of water thriftiness and some of the lowest per capita water use levels in the state. But we all must do more.

We encourage you to learn more about your water use and how it can be reduced at your home and business. The District has a wide variety of ongoing conservation programs to help customers meet demand reduction goals including complimentary home and commercial water check-ups, community and education programs, drought tolerant demonstration gardens, and extensive conservation information available on our website and in person. Over the next several months the District will make conservation incentive and rebate programs available for our customers. Together, we can ensure our community has reliable and safe water supplies through this drought.

John McInnes

General Manager



1944 2014

70 YEARS OF SERVICE

## Goleta Water District Customers Are Conserving During Drought!



# Drought Outreach at 2014 Santa Barbara Earth Day Fest!

The 2014 Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival was held on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara. This year marked another successful event, with attendance reaching nearly 37,400 people. District staff made contact with more than 700 individuals and families, and provided visitors with information on water conservation, including mulching and graywater options. The District also distributed water conservation devices and provided a popular succulent planting station to educate visitors about drought tolerant landscaping and efficient outdoor water use.

The District 2014 Earth Day information materials had a specific focus on drought education and conservation activities such as the Ten Actions for Water Conservation handout and water conservation pledge “selfies” where visitors could choose a pledge with their favorite way to save water such as, “I save water by installing low flow toilets!” or, “I save water by planting water wise native plants!” Brochures with instructions to, “Help Your Trees Survive the Drought,” by prioritizing watering schedules were also distributed. District staff answered questions concerning water supplies, ways customers can reduce water use, and drought planning activities.



## District Wins Goleta Valley Beautiful Award for San Ricardo Well Project.

The District received a Goleta Valley Beautiful (GVB) Award in the category of Neighborhood Enhancement for the San Ricardo Well Site. The 40th Annual Awards and Benefit event was held on Sunday, May 4th, 2014 at the Rancho La Patera Stow House. Goleta Valley Beautiful is a nonprofit environmental, educational and community service organization with an emphasis on urban forestry for public areas. It has served the Goleta Valley and Santa Barbara County since 1974. The GVB Award nomination was submitted by the project’s landscape architect, Kimberly True, of True Nature Landscape Architecture in Goleta.

The San Ricardo Well Site Enhancement Project included installing architectural improvements, water efficient landscaping, and a solar energy system. The project is included in the District Sustainability Plan in the category of Neighborhood Compatibility of District Facilities. This project will serve as a model for site sustainable enhancements at District facilities that will feature drought tolerant landscaping, energy efficiency, and improved neighborhood aesthetics.

With the support of a State-funded grant, the San Ricardo Well has been rehabilitated, is back in service for the first time since 1992, and produces as much water as when originally constructed in 1972. The rehabilitation activities included installation of a submersible pump in the well; installation of a booster pump for the distribution system; replacement of above and below ground piping, valves, meters, and injection tubing to facilitate groundwater injection; installation of new controls and instrumentation to increase system automation; and upgrading a new water treatment system. The upgrades increase the reliability of this vital water supply facility while enhancing the ability to inject spilling lake water into the groundwater basin. The facility allows the District to produce up to 1,290 acre feet of groundwater per year. The project is a vital component of the District groundwater infrastructure and will provide critical supplies during drought.





# Celebrating 70 Years of Water Service to the Goleta Valley.

As Goleta Water District celebrates its 70th anniversary, continued investment in our water treatment and distribution systems will ensure ongoing service reliability for customers.

## 1940s – Water District Formed to Battle Severe Drought

In the midst of WWII, Goleta Valley was battling with Mother Nature over water supplies. It was becoming clear that additional water supply sources were needed to supplement local water. At the time, no official agency represented the Goleta Valley in the debate concerning the development of Lake Cachuma on the Santa Ynez River. Goleta Water District was formed in 1944 to represent the water interests of the Goleta Valley.

By the late 1940s, a brutal drought was drying up the entire South Coast. With water demand exceeding supplies, Goleta residents joined other County citizens voting to approve the Cachuma project by a 3-to-1 margin.



## 1970s – Water Meter Moratorium

By the 1960s and '70s, the Goleta Valley was growing rapidly, and the water supply dipped below projected demand. In 1972, Goleta Water District halted new water connections, stopping new construction in the Goleta Valley.

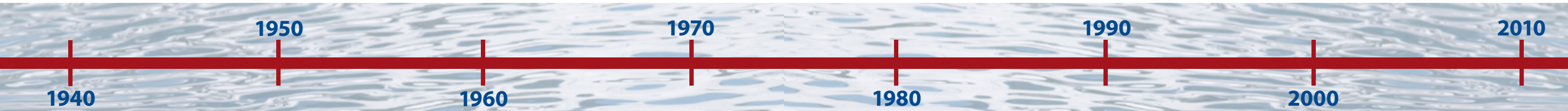
By 1983, the moratorium was eased to allow some new development using water saved through customer conservation and the conversion of some agricultural land.



## 1990s and 2000s – Drought and New Water Supplies

In the early 1990s, the South Coast was gripped in the last stages of a severe seven-year drought. Lake Cachuma was drained to its lowest level ever, mandatory conservation measures were imposed, water rates were raised, and groundwater pumping was stepped up.

Additionally, Goleta Water District in partnership with Goleta Sanitary District began a project to recycle waste water, and deliver the recycled water to District commercial irrigation customers. In addition, voters approved the State Water pipeline, and the Safe Water Supplies Ordinance (SAFE), which has had a lasting impact on the health and sustainability of the groundwater basin.



## 1950s – Cachuma Project Rescues Water-Short Goleta Valley

A fascinating element of the Cachuma Project is Tecolote Tunnel, a seven-foot diameter, six-mile-long gravity-fed water conveyance pipeline, bored straight through the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The Tunnel required years of work and earned its reputation as a "snarling vicious tiger." Work was repeatedly stopped by massive flooding in the tunnel, extreme temperatures, dangerous levels of toxic gas, explosions and hard rock that crushed support beams. Despite delays, worker injuries, and soaring costs, the job was completed in 1952.



## 1950s and 1960s – Vast Water Infrastructure System Constructed in the Goleta Valley

Most of the basic water infrastructure in the Goleta Valley was built in the 1950s and '60s. Including much of the over 270 miles of water pipelines that the District maintains today.



## 1980s – Water Conservation Leader

Ongoing water shortages led Goleta Water District to become a national leader in water conservation. The District introduced the first low-flow toilet rebate program in the United States, in 1986. Other conservation programs included the first large scale effort to replace shower heads with low-flow models. The District also began to encourage water efficient landscaping.

Even the most innovative conservation programs could not balance water supply and demand during the epic drought that struck in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Fortunately, abundant rainfall in the winter of 1992 led to swollen reservoirs and the end of the drought after six consecutive extremely dry years.



## 2010s and Beyond – Continued Investment In Water Supplies

Today, the District has invested in, developed, and maintains a diverse water supply portfolio that meets the water supply needs of the Goleta Valley now and into the future. Supply sources include Lake Cachuma, groundwater, recycled water, and imported water from the State Water Project.

Continued investment in our water treatment and distribution infrastructure is vital to providing our customers with safe and reliable water supplies for another 70 years and beyond.



# Unprecedented Drought Conditions

## The District is conserving water supplies during the current drought

The District declared a Stage 1 Water Shortage in March and asked customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%, consistent with Governor Brown's statewide declaration and the County of Santa Barbara's regional declaration. Since then, the District has continued our ongoing supply and demand management activities and has embarked on a variety of new supply and demand management programs to ensure continued service of safe and reliable water in the Goleta Valley.

The District is fortunate to have a diverse water supply portfolio made up of water from Lake Cachuma, the Goleta Groundwater Basin, State Water, and recycled water. Our community entered this drought with a healthy groundwater basin, carryover State Water stored in San Luis Reservoir, and consistent recycled water use which offsets potable demand. In fact, in this water year, as in most water years, the District's available supplies exceed customer demand, allowing the District to stretch those supplies into next year.

Given the unprecedented dry conditions, the District has engaged in enhanced supply management programs for all of our sources.

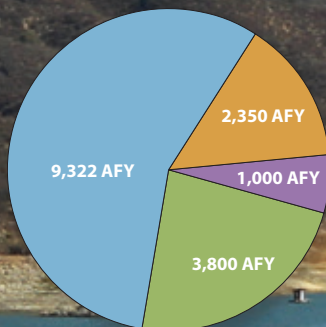
The District increased its conservation efforts. Here are a few proactive steps the District is taking in response to the drought:

- Providing complimentary water checkups for customers' homes and businesses.
- Increasing public outreach about drought and conservation through District communication channels such as the newsletter, website, billing messages, school education programs and participation in community events.
- Participating in regional and statewide conservation and outreach efforts including the County Regional Water Efficiency Program, WaterWise in Santa Barbara, the California Save Our Water Campaign, and the California Urban Water Conservation Council.
- Maintaining our Demonstration Gardens including the development of the new drought tolerant Edible Garden.
- Distributing conservation devices such as showerheads, aerators, hose nozzles, etc.
- Encouraging the public to report leaks and water waste to us by phone and online.
- Increasing investigation of water theft and bolstering related enforcement actions.
- The District participated in the KEYT TV3 ABC "Water Woes" TV program. See our Goleta Valley-specific public service announcements (PSAs) at [www.GoletaWater.com/videos](http://www.GoletaWater.com/videos).

## Our diverse water supply portfolio

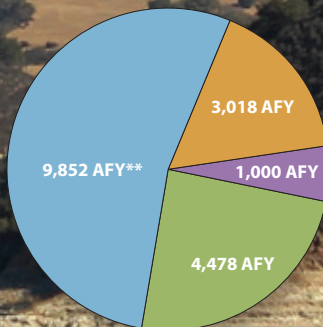
### Normal Water Year (WY)\*

Total Supply = 15,472 AFY – 100%



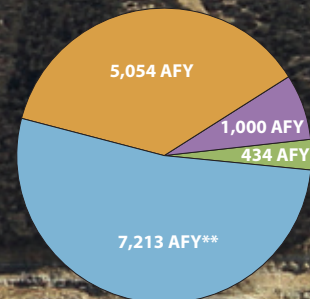
### Current WY 2013-14

Total Supply = 17,348 AFY – 109%



### Projected WY 2014-15

Total Supply = 12,701 AFY – 80%



Legend: Lake Cachuma (light blue), Groundwater (orange), Recycled Water (purple), State Water (green)

AFY denotes Acre-Feet per Year – An Acre Foot = 325,853 gallons of water.

\* Water Year (WY) is October 1 to September 30. \*\* Lake Cachuma supply projections including water supplies carried over from the previous WY and other adjustments.

# Conservation is Critical to Extending Supplies

Supply management and augmentation is only part of the picture. Reducing demand is critical to enduring the drought. Goleta Water District customers have shown a long-standing commitment to water thriftiness and have the lowest per capita residential water use on the South Coast and among the lowest statewide. The average residential District customer uses 66 gallons per person per day. While District customers should be proud of this fact, this already-low water use does present a unique challenge for further demand reduction efforts during the current drought.

## What can you do to conserve even more?

**Reducing outdoor water use** is the easiest way to save the most significant amount of water. Simple actions customers can take to save water outdoors include planting California-friendly trees and plants, reducing lawn size, adjusting sprinklers so they do not water driveways and sidewalks, setting irrigation systems to water at night or in the early morning hours, always using a shut-off nozzle with garden hoses, and using a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks. Of course, the simplest way to save water is to water less often.



*The District distributed free water saving hose nozzles at the Public Works Day event at Camino Real Shopping Center.*

**Indoor water saving actions** include installing water wise fixtures and appliances, fixing leaky faucets and toilets, running the dishwasher and washing machine only when full, taking shorter showers and turning off the shower while lathering, and turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth.



*Goleta Girl Scout Troop 50860 making a difference in our community by promoting water conservation actions at the Public Works Day event at Camino Real Shopping Center.*

Understanding how much water customers use in their home or business is an important step to identifying additional ways to conserve water. Customers can contact the District with questions and concerns, to schedule a complimentary home or business water survey, or to report leaks and water waste.

## Drought conditions will determine future Water Shortage Stages

In July, the District Board of Directors adopted a Drought Preparedness Plan that outlines the steps the District and customers will need to take if drought conditions persist. **At the Tuesday, September 9 monthly meeting of the District Board of Directors, a Stage 2 declaration is scheduled for consideration. Stage 2 and subsequent stages will include mandatory reduction programs, including prohibitions on certain water uses, restrictions on other uses and a curtailment of new water allocations per the voter-approved SAFE Ordinance. In a continuing drought, the District will consider tiered water rates that provide considerable disincentives for excessive use. The District is also working to expand its conservation incentive and rebate program to offer money-saving ways for customers to reduce their water use.**

Together we can all do our part to conserve and extend the community's valuable water supplies during this drought. For more information on water conservation, please visit our state and regional partners at **[www.SaveOurH2o.org](http://www.SaveOurH2o.org)** and **[www.WaterWiseSB.org](http://www.WaterWiseSB.org)**.

Customers can be assured that the District is well positioned to continue to provide safe and reliable water service through this dry period. For more information, please visit **[www.goletawater.com](http://www.goletawater.com)**.



**GOLETA WATER DISTRICT**  
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**REMEMBER, YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE**

**Visit our website for more information**

[www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com) is a great resource  
 Water-Wise Landscaping Tips and Planting  
 Resources | Board Meeting Agendas and  
 Minutes | Information About Rates | Water Quality  
 and more...

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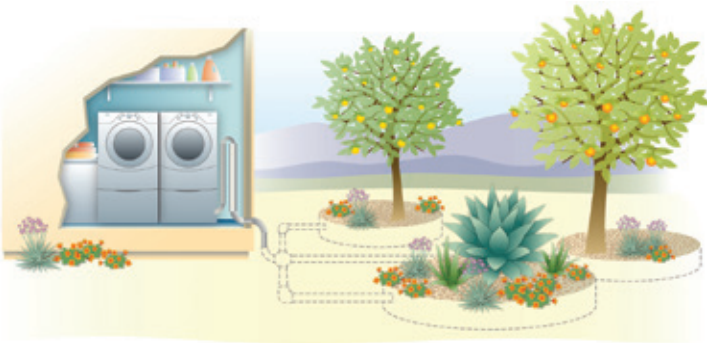
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**Graywater Systems – Reuse Household Water for Landscape**



**Laundry-to-landscape** graywater systems save precious potable water resources and provide sustainable landscape irrigation, thereby conserving water and saving money. The average family of four washes 300-400 loads of laundry per year which generates up to 18,000 gallons of graywater that can be utilized as part of a landscape irrigation system. Laundry to landscape systems do not require a permit in the Goleta Water District service area. Graywater is untreated, used household water that does not contain human wastes. Other examples of graywater sources include wastewater from bathubs, showers, and laundry tubs.

For more information and tools for landscape watering including helpful links to graywater system plans, visit [www.waterwisesb.org/landscapeideas.aspx](http://www.waterwisesb.org/landscapeideas.aspx).

**Paperless News! Sign up to receive our e-newsletter.**

The Goleta Water District newsletter is printed with vegetable based inks on recycled paper. As part of our ongoing sustainability efforts, we now offer customers the option of receiving a paperless digital edition of the newsletter. To learn more and sign up, or to download the newsletter please visit our website at:

[www.GoletaWater.com/newsletters-and-press](http://www.GoletaWater.com/newsletters-and-press).



**Contact us:**

**Call us:**  
 (805) 964-6761  
**Press 1** for drought information

**Send us an email:**  
[eNews@GoletaWater.com](mailto:eNews@GoletaWater.com)

**Visit our office:**  
 4699 Hollister Avenue  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

**Visit our website:**  
[www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com)

**The District Board of Directors** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the District office. The public is always welcome.