

Conditions at Folsom Lake  
as of November 2008

## FOLSOM LAKE AT 25% OF CAPACITY

### District Declares Water Warning!

Everyone must reduce their water use now to minimize the amount of future rationing.

California is in the midst of an "EXTREME DROUGHT" as defined by the Department of Water Resources. Now in the third straight year of drought conditions, Folsom Lake - our ONLY water source - cannot meet our normal water needs. At the end of January, the storage in Folsom Lake was only 25 percent of its total capacity and the Sierra snowpack was only about 60 percent of normal for this time of year.

#### Water Warning Guidelines

**It is important that you follow these guidelines to reduce your water use by 11-25 percent:**

- Use water for beneficial purposes only; unnecessary and wasteful use is prohibited.
- Confine water to your property; do not allow run-off to adjoining properties, ditches or gutters.
- Do not overwater your lawn; your lawn should show stress this year.
- Install and use automatic shut-off devices on hoses.
- Repair leaking pipes or faulty sprinklers within two days or less.
- Pools, spas and ornamental fountains or ponds must be equipped with a recirculation pump; only drain or refill pools for health, maintenance or structural reasons.
- Do not wash streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or buildings, except when necessary for health or sanitary purposes.
- Take advantage of the District's free conservation programs and rebates.
- Reduce landscape and pasture irrigation by 11 - 25 percent. Do not water your lawn until warmer weather and the lawn starts to show stress.
- Set "smart" irrigation timers or controllers to achieve 75 to 89 percent of the evapotranspiration (ET) rate.
- Reduce indoor water use by 11 - 25 percent by washing full loads of clothes and dishes, taking shorter showers, turning off the tap while brushing teeth, etc.
- Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.
- Construction meters and fire hydrant meters will be monitored for efficient water use.

#### Did You Know?

Up to 60 percent of the state's water is contained in the Sierra snowpack.

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Take advantage of our FREE programs and services designed to help you use water efficiently. Check out our redesigned Web site - [sjwd.org](http://sjwd.org) for more information.

### Attend an Irrigation Workshop

Join us for a free irrigation workshop to improve your system's performance and to learn how to use water efficiently. The workshops are always well attended, so please call 791-2663 to reserve your spot.

**Saturday, April 18  
9 a.m. to noon**

**SJWD  
9935 Auburn Folsom Road  
Granite Bay**

### Recent Attendee Feedback

**"Great workshop! Very practical and informative."**

**"I can't wait to implement the things I learned."**

**"The staff explained things very clearly and also went over the services that SJWD provides."**

This Water Warning requires mandatory reduction in water use. Should the water supply outlook worsen, SJWD will be required to reduce total water use by at least 20 percent, leading to mandatory water use restrictions.

# Are You Ready for Spring?

**G**et a jump-start on using water efficiently with these easy tips. They will help you save money on your water bill and protect our water supply. Thank you for your continued efforts!



Did you know that most residential water use occurs outdoors? Our data indicates that last year water use during June and July was nearly six times greater than water use during December and January!

## Prepare Irrigation Equipment

- Install an evapotranspiration (ET) or weather-based irrigation controller to ensure optimum watering schedules.
- Utilize rotor sprinklers to ensure even water distribution (never mix rotor and impact sprinklers in the same zone).
- Split irrigation into two short cycles allowing water to penetrate the soil and reduce runoff.

## Spruce up Your Landscape

- Apply mulch to plants and shrubs to keep soil cool and reduce evaporation.
- Install drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Keep grass longer. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than shorter grass.
- Group plants and shrubs together based on water needs.

## Use Water Wisely

- Complete outdoor watering between midnight and noon when less water evaporates.
- Avoid watering on windy days when much of the water blows away from your lawn.
- Water only when needed. Check soil moisture by pushing a screwdriver into your lawn at various locations. If it goes in easily, there is no need to water because the ground is still moist.
- Use a broom instead of the water hose for cleaning sidewalks and driveways.

## Capital Improvements

**A** few of our recent capital improvement projects may have disrupted neighborhoods and traffic flow. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and understanding as we upgrade your water system!



## Apply for Rebates

**A**re you planning to upgrade an appliance or irrigation device to a more efficient model? If so, contact us prior to purchasing to see if you qualify to receive money back. Our rebates (ranging from \$100-\$500 for residential and from \$100-\$1,500 for non-residential) are available on a first-come, first-served basis for:

- Ultra-low-flush and high-efficiency toilets
- High-efficiency washing machines
- Irrigation system upgrades
- Hot water recirculation systems

For more information, please contact us at 791-2663 or visit [sjwd.org](http://sjwd.org). Remember to call first to make sure the equipment you are interested in qualifies for a rebate BEFORE purchasing and installing.

Our rebate programs are partially funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the South Placer Wastewater Authority. And, through a partnership with the Regional Water Authority, we also receive funding from the Department of Water Resources and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.

## Service Box Reminder

**P**lease keep your service box area clear of all trees and shrubs and avoid covering them with bark, rock or other decorative material. Service boxes should be visible at all times. In the event of an emergency, District staff will need to easily locate your service box and promptly turn off your water to help you avoid costly repairs from water damage.

When planting trees or shrubs, please plant them at least 10 feet away from service boxes and pipelines to avoid damage caused by roots.

## New Web Site Up and Running

**B**e sure to visit our recently updated Web site - [sjwd.org](http://sjwd.org). You'll find information about using water efficiently, customer rebates, bill payment options, free programs and services and more.

**Sign up** for equalized payment plans to take the sting out of high summer bills. Learn more on our Web site [sjwd.org](http://sjwd.org) or call 791-0115.

### San Juan Water District

P.O. Box 2157  
9935 Auburn-Folsom Road  
Granite Bay, CA 95746  
791-0115  
[sjwd.org](http://sjwd.org)



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