

# pipeline



SUMMER 2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT



## Governor Brown Orders Mandatory Water Conservation MEASURES BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2015

Governor Brown has ordered statewide mandatory cuts in potable water use beginning June 1, 2015, in order to safeguard California's water supplies should the drought continue into a fifth consecutive year. The mandatory conservation order remains in effect through February 13, 2016.

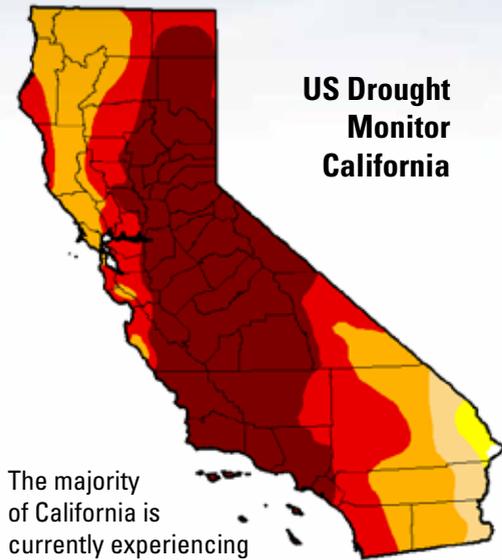
With the governor's action, all Otay Water District customers are required to reduce water use by 20 percent based on their 2013 usage. Customers can calculate their water conservation target by going to the Otay Water District's website and using our Water Savings Target Calculator.

The Otay Water District does not have a watering schedule. Customers may irrigate any two 2 days per week and up to 15 minutes per irrigation station. Irrigation is prohibited after 10:00 a.m. and before 6:00 p.m. These restrictions also apply when watering by hand. The watering restrictions do not apply to irrigation using recycled water, to systems using a weather "Smart" irrigation controller, and to systems using high-efficiency rotating nozzles and drip systems.

The District offers a range of resources to promote water conservation in homes, businesses, homeowners associations, and in other organizations. These resources include rebates for water-efficient appliances and devices that improve irrigation efficiency.

The Otay Water District thanks its customers for their support of water conservation, especially for having reduced water use by an average of 27 percent in May and 26 percent in June of 2015. Each individual customer effort matters and helps to protect our water supply as the drought continues.

For more information about California's record drought, please visit [www.otaywater.gov/drought](http://www.otaywater.gov/drought). For details about rebates, visit [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com).



**US Drought Monitor  
California**

The majority of California is currently experiencing extreme drought.

**The following actions are prohibited:**

- Irrigating more than 2 days per week
- Irrigation that results in runoff
- Irrigating during a rainstorm and for 48 hours after measurable rainfall
- Using a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle
- Using a hose to water plants, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle
- Washing down driveways, patios, and sidewalks except when needed to alleviate health and safety concerns.

In addition, restaurants may only serve water to customers upon a customer's request, and hotels and motels must prominently display in each guest room the option for guests to forgo having their linens and towels laundered daily.

**Otay Water District wants to thank its customers for reducing water use 27 percent in May and 26 percent in June, 2015.**

**DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, CONSERVATION MEASURES REMAIN MANDATORY.**

**TURF REMOVAL REBATES EXHAUSTED**

Due to unprecedented public demand for incentives, Metropolitan Water District has exhausted funds for turf removal rebates. Incentives for other devices are still available, visit [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) for a complete list of available rebates.



## Introducing Otay's New Online "BillPay" NOW AVAILABLE VIA MOBILE DEVICES

Can't get to a desktop? Pay your bill anywhere with ease through your smart mobile device. You can also view your bill, go paperless, or sign up for automatic payments through our new mobile friendly platform. It's easy! Downloading an app is not required.

1. Go to [www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov) on your smart mobile device or tablet
2. Click on the Online BillPay icon
3. Sign into your account, or make a one-time payment

Registration is not required for existing online BillPay customers. New users, who have not used our BillPay portal prior to this new feature, will need to register.

And, **COMING SOON**, look for our new mobile app for reporting water waste. It's designed to help all Otay customers Make Every Drop Count.

## Otay Water District | 2015 Landscape Contest Winner

The Otay Water District's 2015 landscape contest winner is Dr. Nancy Montalvo of Chula Vista. In 2012, Dr. Montalvo participated in the District's turf removal program and replaced all of her front yard grass. Two years later she replaced all the back yard grass and created a customized meditation retreat integrating drought tolerant plants with both hardscape materials and garden statuary.

In June, with grass removed, Dr. Montalvo experienced an incredible 70 percent reduction in water use when compared to

her highest June water usage. Monthly water consumption also dropped to an annual average of 12.6 units per month.

The impressive water savings combined with the added property value from the landscape conversion were judged to warrant the designation of "Best in District" in the Otay Water District's Annual Landscape Contest. Congratulations!



## RECYCLED WATER IN USE



Recycled water is in use in Otay Water District's east Chula Vista service area. Recycled water is wastewater that has been re-purified and is being reused.

As the state struggles with record drought, reusing wastewater is once again proving to be a cost-effective and drought-proof way to create a reliable supply of water for the region.

Since the mid-1980s, recycled water has been in use in Otay Water District's east Chula Vista service area where it is used to irrigate parks, golf courses, ball fields, more than 10 miles of freeway landscaping along SR 125 South, as well as for soil compaction and suppress dust at Chula Vista construction sites. This reuse of wastewater saves enough drinking water to supply approximately 10,000 homes and businesses each year.

You will know when recycled water is in use because all pipes, sprinklers, meters or valves designed to carry recycled water are required to be purple in color or distinctively wrapped in purple tape. So every time you see purple pipe, know that it's delivering recycled water to help communities served by the Otay Water District meet the challenges of the statewide drought.

### OTAY WATER DISTRICT - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm in the Board meeting room. The public is encouraged to attend at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA.

**President**

Jose Lopez, Division 4  
jlopez@otaywater.gov

**Vice President**

Mitch Thompson, Division 2  
mthompson@otaywater.gov

**Treasurer**

Mark Robak, Division 5  
OtayWater@cox.net

**Board Member**

Tim Smith, Division 1  
tsmith@otaywater.gov

**Board Member**

Gary Croucher, Division 3  
gcroucher@otaywater.gov



**SAVE THE DATE**

THE  
*Enchanted*  
Garden GALA  
AT THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

OCTOBER 17TH, 2015

For more class information and prices  
visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)



**DOG DAYS OF SUMMER**

**Every Wednesday in August  
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Stroll the Garden on Wednesday summer evenings when they stay open late for leashed canine friends and their companions. Enter to win a fabulous doggie gift basket from KAHOOOTS Pet Store (one gift basket each month) and pick up some sample bags of dog food as you explore the sights, smells, and sounds of the Garden.

**SPRINKLE REPAIR AND  
LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

When was the last time you checked your sprinklers? Landscape architect Steve Sherman of California Landscape Designs will show you easy ways to maintain your sprinkler system and irrigation controllers, and offers a variety of tips to make landscaping easier.

**Members: Free Non-Members: \$10.00.**

**DESIGNING LUSH LANDSCAPES  
WITH WATER-WISE PLANTS**

**August 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Learn how to achieve a lush-looking landscape even in the drought. Christiane Holmquist, owner of Christiane Holmquist Landscape Design, will introduce you to a variety of plants that use little water but offer lots of eye-popping color and lush greenery for a landscape that says wow! Pre-registration required.

**Members: Free Non-Members \$10.00**

AT THE **Garden**

**Figs Don't Drink**

You might wonder if the drought means the end of fruit trees in our backyards. The answer is "no." There are many kinds of fruit trees that produce with little, if any, irrigation once trees are established. My top five list includes fig trees.

Figs originated in the hot, dry Middle East. They grow easily here, and there are many varieties to choose from, thanks to their being in cultivation for over eons and by different cultures across the world.

In my garden, I grow the mild flavored, apple sized 'Long Yellow,' which has yellow skin and pale flesh. 'Brown Turkey' is medium sized fruit with brown skin and very sweet burgundy/brown flesh. 'Panachee' (also called 'Tiger Stripe') makes small figs, green and yellow striped outside with strawberry colored flesh that tastes sweet and bright. There are many more fig varieties on the market too.

Once you select a variety, plant your fig tree in the hottest area of your garden, where it will get at least six hours of full, direct sun each day. Figs prefer well-draining soil, so plant into a raised mound if your soil is clay.

Dig the hole so the tree sits at the same height in the ground as it did in its pot; then one and a half or two times as wide as the pot.

Don't bother amending the planting hole, but do add a few handfuls of worm castings to help jumpstart beneficial soil microbes.

Next, set a gopher basket into the planting hole to protect roots at the base of the tree. If gophers eat the peripheral roots, the tree will likely survive, but if they get the main roots the tree will die. Purchase Gopher baskets in nurseries or make your own from chicken wire (just be sure to wear leather gloves!).

Fill the hole and the container each with water and allow it to drain. Then, remove the tree from the container and rough up the rootball. Gently set the tree into the hole, then backfill tamping soil down and wetting it every few inches.

Finally, make a shallow basin around the trunk of the tree for deep soaking right after planting and every few weeks through the first few months.

At the same time, install in-line drip irrigation (rather than bubblers or individual drip emitters) around the tree trunk. Starting at about eight inches away from the trunk, make concentric loops of irrigation lines, spaced about 12 inches apart. Set the last loop a foot beyond the tree's canopy.

Figs require no special spraying or pruning. Their soft, white wood is easy to prune and even to shape as espalier. Prune right after harvest, in the short window before next year's fruits begin to form.

While figs can be fertilized, fertilizers promote vigorous growth that counters the goals of drought tolerance. Instead, spread a three-inch thick layer of mulch over the soil under and around each tree. Leave the soil right around the trunk bare so mulch doesn't touch the tree.

The cooler months of fall and winter are best planting months. If there is no rain, deep water often enough to keep roots damp (not wet) through the first year or two. After that, some gardeners can stop watering altogether, depending on the garden's microclimate. That said, monitor plants, especially in the hot months. If leaves droop a little during the day, that may not be a problem but if they droop first thing in the morning, that plant is water stressed. Deep water it right away.

Figs have two ripening seasons, depending on the variety. Most ripen at the end of summer but a few also have an early crop, called a breba crop, in early summer. Either way, figs ripen only on the tree so don't pick them early.

I love eating figs fresh off the tree, but of course they are wonderful as jam, roasted, tarts, and baked in chicken dishes.

# El gobernador Brown Ordena Medidas Obligatorias de Conservación de Agua en Todo el Estado

## LAS MEDIDAS COMENZARON EL 1.º DE JUNIO DE 2015

El gobernador Brown ha ordenado reducciones obligatorias del uso de agua potable en todo el estado comenzando el 1.º de junio de 2015 a fin de salvaguardar los suministros de agua de California si continúa la sequía por quinto año consecutivo. La orden de conservación obligatoria seguirá en vigor hasta el 13 de febrero de 2016.

### Las siguientes actividades están prohibidas:

- Regar el jardín más de 2 días a la semana.
- El riego que resulte en escorrentía.
- Regar durante una tormenta o durante las 48 horas después de una lluvia fuerte.
- Utilizar una manguera para lavar un vehículo de motor a menos que la manguera cuente con una boquilla de cierre automático.
- Lavar las entradas, patios y banquetas excepto cuando sea necesario por razones de salud y seguridad.

Además, los restaurantes deben servir agua a los clientes únicamente cuando estos lo soliciten. Los hoteles y moteles deben anunciar de manera prominente en cada habitación que los huéspedes tienen la opción de no aceptar el servicio de lavado de toallas y sábanas diariamente.

Esta acción del gobernador requiere que todos los clientes del Distrito de Agua de Otay reduzcan su consumo de agua en un 20 por ciento basado

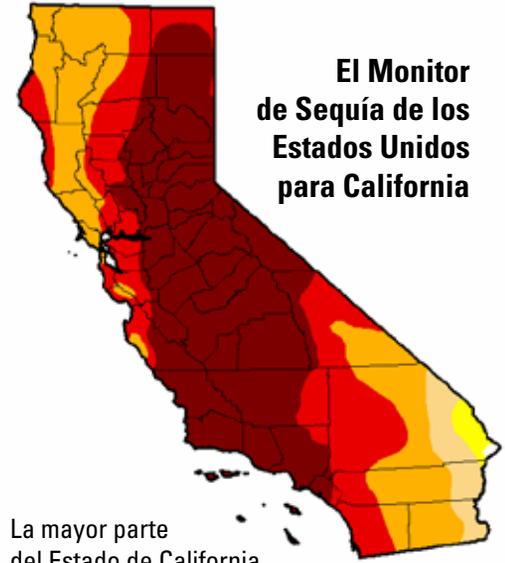
en su consumo del año 2013. Los clientes pueden calcular su meta de conservación de agua visitando la página de Internet del Distrito de Agua de Otay y utilizar nuestra Calculadora de Metas de Ahorro de Agua.

El Distrito de Agua de Otay no tiene un horario de riego. Los clientes pueden regar dos días a la semana, cualesquiera que estos sean, y hasta 15 minutos por estación de riego. El riego queda prohibido después de las 10:00 a. m., y antes de las 6:00 p. m. Estas restricciones se aplican también al riego manual. Las restricciones de riego no se aplican a la irrigación con agua reciclada; a los sistemas que utilizan un controlador de riego "inteligente" según el clima; y a los sistemas que usan boquillas rotativas de alta eficiencia y sistemas por goteo.

El distrito ofrece una gama de recursos para promover la conservación de agua en los hogares, negocios, asociaciones de propietarios de inmuebles, y otras organizaciones. Estos recursos incluyen incentivos para los electrodomésticos de uso eficiente de agua y dispositivos para mejorar la eficiencia de los sistemas de riego.

El Distrito de Agua de Otay agradece a sus clientes por apoyar la conservación de agua, especialmente por haber ayudado a reducir el uso de agua en un 27 por ciento en mayo, y 26 por ciento en junio del 2015. Cada esfuerzo individual de nuestros clientes cuenta y ayuda a proteger nuestro suministro de agua conforme continúa la sequía.

Para más información acerca de la sequía récord en California por favor visite [www.otaywater.gov/drought](http://www.otaywater.gov/drought). Para obtener más detalles acerca de los incentivos visite [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com).



El Monitor de Sequía de los Estados Unidos para California

La mayor parte del Estado de California está experimentando actualmente una sequía extrema.

Los clientes de Otay redujeron el uso de agua por otro 27 por ciento en Mayo, y 26 por ciento en Junio del 2015.

**A PESAR DE ESTOS ESFUERZOS, LAS MEDIDAS DE CONSERVACIÓN DE AGUA SON OBLIGATORIAS.**

## REEMBOLSOS DE REMOCION DE CÉSPED AGOTADOS

Debido a la demanda pública sin precedentes de incentivos, el Distrito Metropolitano de Agua ha agotado los fondos para los reembolsos por la eliminación de césped. Incentivos para otros dispositivos están todavía disponibles, visite

[www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) para una lista completa de los descuentos disponibles.

FOLLOW OTAY WATER ON... / SIGA AL DISTRITO DE AGUA DE OTAY EN...



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT CALL 619.670.2222 OR GO TO [WWW.OTAYWATER.GOV](http://WWW.OTAYWATER.GOV)