



## BOARD ADOPTS RESOLUTION LIMITING WATERING TO TWO DAYS A WEEK

On August 13, 2014, the Board of Directors approved (3-2 vote) Resolution 2014-07 implementing State Water Resources Control Board Emergency Water Conservation Regulations restricting outdoor irrigation to no more than two days a week. Please reset your irrigation controllers accordingly; you may choose any two days of the week. Customers in noncompliance can be fined \$500/day. We appreciate customers who are already using water saving irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation, and who have reduced lawns and installed drought tolerant landscapes.

### How to **Cycle** and **Soak** two days a week to maintain a healthy landscape during the drought

For each irrigation zone that is being watered more than two days a week:

- Calculate the total minutes of irrigation per week currently. Set a new target to reduce the total minutes. If you've already taken effective conservation measures to meet a goal, no need to reduce further.
- Instead of watering every day, water two days a week with 2-4 cycles on those days. Your total minutes should meet your target: Water less time than before.
- Schedule cycles at least an hour apart.
- Don't run spray irrigation for more than 5 minutes at a time because the water will run off. (Doesn't apply to rotors or rotary sprayers because they apply water at a slower rate).
- Have a complicated watering schedule? Call Mary Dateo, Conservation Specialist, to help you set a new schedule for two days a week. **650-948-1217**

## Why the State Water Project property tax is **UNFAIR**

*By: Director Steve Jordan*

In your tax bills you may have noticed several special assessments for the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). One called the State Water Project is for water that SCVWD receives from the State, but has refused to provide to Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD). PHWD receives 100% of its water from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite, which is controlled by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). SFPUC serves as the main wholesale water provider to most of the communities to the north of us, including Palo Alto and Stanford. SFPUC funds our share of its capital and operating costs entirely through the water rates it charges us. *Continued...*

Taxing Agency	Tax Rate
1% MAXIMUM LEVY	0.010000
CO BOND 2006 HOSP FAC	
CO LIBRARY RETIREMENT	0.000035
CO RETIREMENT LEVY	0.000024
COMM COLLEGE BONDS	0.000368
EL CAMINO HOSPITAL 2003	0.000290
ELEM OR UNIF SCH BONDS	0.000129
<b>Total Assessed Value Rate</b>	<b>0.000914</b>
SCVWD-STATE WATER PROJ	0.011760
<b>Total Land &amp; Improvement Rate</b>	<b>0.000070</b>
	<b>0.000070</b>

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The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the main wholesale water supplier to the balance of Santa Clara County, and has refused to even consider supplying us any water when we have asked (twice in the last 10 years.) SCVWD recoups its costs for water operations from both water rates (charged to users), and taxes (charged to taxpayers). SCVWD has chosen to fund 100% of its State Water Project obligation through taxes on all the taxpayers of Santa Clara County. Using taxes has the benefit of reducing water rates to its customers, particularly farmers in the South County. It is common practice for urban wholesale districts to pass along State Water Project costs to customers in the form of rates, or to both taxpayers and customers by a combination of rates and taxes.

Further, while Santa Clara County has the ability to tax by district or territory, and indeed manages hundreds of special districts, SCVWD has consciously chosen to tax the entire county. What is most egregious in our view is that SCVWD has not, does not, and has told us it cannot provide water to PHWD, while it has been happy to tax our residents for over 25 years for the water it purchases from the State. If you look at your tax bill, you will see a line item called "State Water Project", which is a charge for SWP water that SCVWD has refused to provide to us. In total, our customers pay over \$250,000 per year to SCVWD for the SWP alone. It is likely that this tax will dramatically increase in the future when the State embarks on the new tunnel plan, which will have no benefit to PHWD.

We have discussed this inherent unfairness extensively with SCVWD, including the President and our elected representative, Brian Schmidt, to no avail. They seem focused instead on building and sustaining legal arguments to support their unusual policy of using taxes to fund 100% of the State Water Project fee. You can read more about it and other fees they charge some of our customers in a report on our web site. The SCVWD recently discussed the State Water Project tax at its July meeting, which you can read at [www.scvd.org](http://www.scvd.org). Because the amount per parcel for the State Water Project is small, most homeowners would not find it economical to challenge the obvious inappropriateness of this tax. Therefore, we suggest that you contact elected officials to request that they **halt their policy of taxation without water.**

[www.purissimawater.org](http://www.purissimawater.org)

650-948-1217

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SCVWD Board of Directors

Email Brian at:

[Board@valleywater.org](mailto:Board@valleywater.org)

Mail correspondence to: SCVWD Board of Directors 5750 Almaden Expressway San Jose, CA 95118

**Joe Simitian**, Santa Clara County Supervisor District 5; Email Joe through the County website at:

<http://www.sccgov.org>

**Jeffrey V. Smith**, County Executive; Mail correspondence to : 70 West Hedding Street, 11th Floor San Jose, CA 95110 Tel (408) 299-5105

**Betty Yee** Board of Equalization Member: Email Betty through her homepage: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/members/yee>

**George W. Putris**, Santa Clara County Tax Collector: Mail letters to: Tax Collector's Office 70 West Hedding Street East Wing, 6th Floor San Jose, CA 95110 (408) 808-7900

**Beau Goldie**, CEO of Santa Clara Valley Water District : email Mr. Goldie at [BGoldie@valleywater.org](mailto:BGoldie@valleywater.org)

**Rich Gordon**, Assemblymember for District 24 at: [info@richgordon2014.com](mailto:info@richgordon2014.com) AND [gordon4ca@gmail.com](mailto:gordon4ca@gmail.com) District Office at 650-691-2121

**Los Altos Hills Town Council members:**

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