

Dial back irrigation in the fall

Reduce Fall watering to once a week, even if it doesn't rain.

With the cooler fall weather, your plants need less water than they need during the hot summer months. So reset your landscape timers to once a week. Fall is also the ideal time to renovate your landscape by converting it to low water using plants. With cooler weather, new plants establish without a lot of supplemental water.

When it starts raining, stop watering.

You can turn off your irrigation and let nature do your watering



Keep up the good water-saving work.

Your water saving efforts help us to continue to provide the community with safe, clean water for a healthy life and environment.

Thanks for helping to make water conservation a California way of life.

A message from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and PHWD



FINDING LEAKS JUST GOT EASIER

With our new Beacon meters.

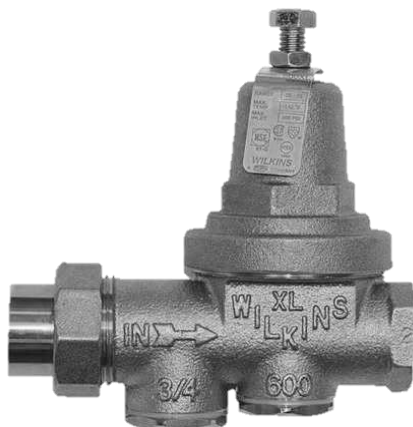
- Watch your usage on-line
- Get automatic leak alerts sent to your phone
- No cost to you



To request a Beacon meter installation, send email to: rcollins@purissimawater.org

Understanding Pressure Regulators

Pressure is measured in pounds per square inch (psi). Normal water pressure for residential customers is **50 - 70 psi**. Pressure higher than **70 psi** may damage small lines to household appliances such as an ice maker, dishwasher, or toilet supply line.



Ask your plumber to measure the psi at your house. If it's above **70 psi**, a Pressure Regulator Valve (PRV) should be installed. It will be installed on your side of the meter in a separate concrete box close to the water meter box. Sometimes your PRV may be located next to the house where the water enters.

Symptoms of Failure

PRVs commonly wear out. One surprising symptom of a PRV failure is low flow. You'll notice this when multiple faucets and/or irrigation are turned full on and the flow is much lower than usual. A failed PRV will be unable to adjust to a higher flow demand. The PRV will need to be replaced by your plumber.

California Water Fix Its impact on PHWD and your tax bill.

By Steve Jordan, Vice Pres. PHWD Board of Directors

Summary: WaterFix is a state project to improve the reliability of supply of water delivered through the Delta to wholesale water districts throughout the State. PHWD does not receive any of this water, but our customers pay tax to Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) for state water. Once the WaterFix is constructed we expect this tax to increase to double or triple the current levels.

PHWD was formed in 1955 to build our water distribution system and buy water from San Francisco, which had recently built a new pipeline through the South Bay carrying Hetch Hetchy water. We pay our pro rata share of this system in our rates. SCVWD is the wholesale water provider in Santa Clara County with county wide responsibility for creek and reservoir management, aquifer recharge, and conservation, funded by voter approved tax measures. SCVWD does not supply PHWD (or Palo Alto and Stanford) any water, but does supply the rest of the county water including water imported from the State Water Project (SWP), authorized by a statewide vote in 1960. The original SWP encouraged the use of water rates as the primary funding mechanism so that the beneficiaries of the SWP water would pay for the project. SCVWD collects a tax in order to fund 100% of its annual obligation to the SWP. The tax shows up on your tax bill as "SCVWD-STATE WATER PROJ", which in aggregate collected \$315,000 to \$410,000/year over the last 2 years from the 2070 parcels in PHWD, or on average \$150 - \$200 per year per property.

The State's proposed \$17 Billion WaterFix would build two tunnels under the Delta to convey water to the California Aqueduct with less impact on the Delta ecosystem. The State has decided that the WaterFix is "maintenance and improvement" to the 1960 SWP rather than "a new project" thus avoiding a statewide vote; they simply need commitments from wholesale customers to guarantee sufficient incremental funding for bond issuance. Over the last few months, SWP buyers including SCVWD, several Central Valley irrigation districts, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, considered whether to commit their ratepayers or taxpayers to fund the WaterFix.

If SCVWD continues to fund its obligation to the SWP based solely on taxes, the WaterFix will likely double or triple the SWP tax to approximately \$1 million annually across PHWD, or roughly \$500 per property. SCVWD concluded the scope of the project was too expensive compared to the benefit to Santa Clara County, and driven by our elected board member Gary Kremen, SCVWD voted October 17 to support the WaterFix only if its scope were reduced by about half. PHWD is unlikely to receive any benefit from the WaterFix as SCVWD has no plans to provide water to us, and the SWP funds collected from our citizens can only be used for the SWP.

As a result of the inherent unfairness of the SWP tax I believe that PHWD should look to SCVWD to fund other programs already authorized by County taxpayers. As an early proponent of deploying smart meters at PHWD, I co-authored along with GM Patrick Walter our first proposal to SCVWD for a conservation grant, which has funded about 25% of our smart meters to date. In light of the dramatic reduction in PHWD revenues resulting from the excellent conservation of our customers (a decline of over 35% from the 2013 base year) it has become increasingly difficult for PHWD to fund essential capital improvements; in fact PHWD had to rely on a line of credit last year to meet working capital requirements. Therefore, I have proposed to the PHWD Board that we use SCVWD conservation funds beginning in the current fiscal year, rather than ratepayer revenues, to fund our smart meter deployments as well as other conservation programs and technology. This would allow us to use our limited water revenues for essential capital improvements and repairs, while seeking County funds in the few areas where they are authorized.



**Steve Jordan, Vice Pres.
PHWD Board of Directors**

Representative to SCVWD
Environmental and Water
Resources Committee