



McKINLEYVILLE Community Services District

Newsletter

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October 2014

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Recreation Advisory Committee
the 3rd Thursday of each month

MCSD Board Meeting
1st Wednesday of the month

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**David Couch
President**

**John Corbett
Vice-President**

**Dennis Mayo
President**

**Helen Edwards
Director**

**Bill Wennerholm
Director**

**Gregory Orsini
General Manager**

A Message From the General Manager

As everyone should already be aware our governor and state legislature have declared a state of drought for the state of California. In this declaration there are some basic mandatory restrictions placed on domestic water from surface sources. Most notable is domestic water on hard surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks and gutters. This is to be accomplished by limiting irrigation, requiring hose shutoff nozzles while washing your car and no washing down of those hard surfaces I mentioned in previously.



It seems ironic that as I write this article the Ruth Lake Reservoir level is at or near accepted seasonal levels and it has been raining steadily for the last twelve hours but be that as it may the state is in a drought situation and as a responsible community we are committed doing our fair share.

The state has allowed us the flexibility to enact our own water shortage contingency plans or water conservation ordinances. So at our September Board of Directors Meeting we requested the MCSD Board approve modernization of Ordinance 10, MCSD's water conservation ordinance and activate Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation, which they did.

You may ask 'What does all of this mean to me?' Below are a the bullet points pulled directly from the Ordinance 10 Stage 2 which is also available on our website in our Frequently Asked Questions about water conservation:

http://mckinleyvillecsd.com/sites/mckinleyvillecsd.com/files/08-08-2014%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions_1.pdf

- Unattended automatic watering of any lawn, garden, landscaped area, tree, shrub or other plant except between the hours of 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM,
- Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other exterior paved areas except by public agency for the purpose of public safety,
- Application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures,
- Use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculation system,
- Watering any portion of a golf course other than the tees and greens except where private well or recycled water supply is used,
- Fire hydrant water unless authorized by the District, except by fire protection agencies for fire suppression purposes, or for other authorized uses including storm drain maintenance, and street sweeping purposes. Water/sewer flushing and fire flow testing are authorized only if coordinated and performed at the same time and
- The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle or for any other purpose, except where the hose is fitted with a shutoff nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.

A Message from the General Manager (continued)

The intent of Ordinance 10 Stage 2 was to develop an, appropriate for our region and circumstances, strategy to fit the state requirements and reduce water consumption that serves no real benefit. To date we have been submitting monthly water consumption records to the state consistent with the state requirements and are showing reductions in consumption.

I would like to commend you, our rate payers and community members, for your help in achieving these goals in reducing water consumption. Thank you for being diligent and considerate of the state's water situation. It is reassuring that we here on the north coast are making a conscious effort to conserve even if it is not completely necessary due to our regional situation.

Finally I would like to cover the whole concept of penalization for non-compliance. The California Water Code gives water purveyors the authority to levy fines and collect them through the civil court system. Furthermore the Governor and Legislature included fines of up to \$500 in the recent conservation plan and authorized water utilities to cite for non-compliance.

What will happen if you inadvertently do not comply with the mandatory requirements? Well first of all you will probably be receiving a door hanger to introduce you to or remind you of the new requirements, hopefully that will be enough. If you fail to comply at that point you will receive another notice. MCSD is documenting all notices given for non-compliance. If it is determined by the General Manager you are scoffing at the Ordinance you will receive a written notice with language reminding you of our authority to cite and the potential penalties. I have not yet had to send any such notices and I hope it will not be necessary as we move forward.

We are all in this together, let's show the rest of the state how important our domestic water is. Again thank you for doing your part to conserve.

Gregory P. Orsini, General Manager



water conservation



A Message from the Redwood Community Action Agency

Build a rain garden:

To help reduce stormwater pollution and reduce landscape irrigation costs, consider building a rain garden. A rain garden is a shallow, constructed depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants. It is located in your yard to receive runoff, mainly from the roof of a house or other building. The rain garden fills with a few inches of water after a storm and the water slowly filters into the ground rather than running off to a storm drain. Compared to a conventional patch of lawn, a rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground.

For more information, visit:

http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/downloads/RaingardenHow2HomeownerUWExtension.pdf

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/stormwater/choose-right-rain-garden-0>

<http://www.northcoaststormwatercoalition.org/>

Stormwater Information



www.northcoaststormwatercoalition.org

When your car is leaking oil on the street, remember, it's not JUST leaking oil on the street.



Rain washes oil into storm drains, which lead straight into our streams, Humboldt Bay, and the ocean.

What you can do:

1. Stop drips. Check for oil leaks on your car, truck, or boat regularly and fix them promptly.
2. Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work. Clean up spills immediately.
3. Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch.
4. Don't leave oil stains on asphalt or concrete where rain carries residues away.
5. Recycle used motor oil.

A Message From the Operations Dept.

Inflow and Infiltration:

Two things to think about as we approach winter as it pertains to the sewer collection system and the treatment process are Inflow and Infiltration. Infiltration is groundwater that gets into the sewer from leaks in pipes and manholes. Inflow is a different subject. Inflow is when unauthorized storm water is being diverted into the sewer collection system, such as pulled cleanout and rain gutters tied into the sewer laterals etc. District staff inspects manholes during the winter when flows are high. They are looking for leaks in manhole walls and flow discrepancies in the channels. Infiltration is repaired by District staff to eliminate extra costs in treating and pumping.

In 2012 staff discovered and stopped approximately 207,000 gallons per day of water from infiltrating our collection system. Granted this amount of flow is only present when rains are at their heaviest and ground water levels are very high. We have used some known values and conservative estimations to put a dollar value on this operation. According to the FY 2013/14 audit; collecting, transferring, treating and discharging 193 gallons of water cost MCSD's rate payers \$1.00. If 207,000 gallons per day of infiltration were present for 90 days per year we are saving at least \$90,000 per year.

District staff also inspects for illegal discharge into the collection system (inflow). As rate payers, there are some things you can do to help: First, verify that your gutters are not tied into your sewer laterals. Second, verify your cleanouts are capped or plugged properly to avoid water from entering your lateral. Last but not least, if you notice that you or your neighbor's yard is impacted with a lot of rain water but it quickly drains, this could mean there is a cleanout without a cap or there is a broken lateral. Please inform the District of these findings. Rain water belongs in the storm drain and not in the sewer collection system.

District staff installs flow monitoring devices in manholes where flow is abnormally high to pinpoint the area or house that the inflow is generated from. Smoke testing is also done to find these problem spots. With your help we could minimize the unnecessary pumping and treatment of rain water. As you can see by the previous example, every bit of water adds up, which burdens the rate payers of McKinleyville C.S.D.

"Do You Believe In Magic?"

Fixture drains are a magical thing. You can throw just about anything down the drain or toilet and it disappears, never to be seen again and completely out of your mind. This is not true. I am here to tell you that it is not magic. You see, those items do reappear. They travel through the sewer collection system to a sewer lift station and then pumped to the Wastewater Management Facility. Sometimes the item you flush gets stuck in your plumbing and it causes a sewer plug, which can get expensive.

A lot of the time, your magical item mixes with other peoples magical items in the sewer main and creates this enchanted blockage that stops the sewer from passing through. In case you didn't know, if sewer can't flow down the path that we have created for it, then it will find another way. Sometimes it is out of a manhole in the street or it comes up in a customer's house. Trust me, if you wake up to your house flooded with sewer, the last thing you care about is magic tricks.

If your item is lucky enough to travel through the sewer mains and make it to sewer lift stations, then it is halfway through its journey. One problem, your item has to travel through pumps. Very few items make it through the pumps. Instead they plug up the pumps until staff can arrive, open up the pumps, remove your magical item, put the pumps back together and back into service. This adds to higher pumping costs, labor and possible station failure.

Now, if your item is just the right size it can and will make it all the way to the Wastewater Management Facility. This is not an accomplishment. Don't get me wrong, it is impressive. There are very few items that can make the full journey and I will name them. "Q" tips, baby wipes, condoms and certain feminine plastic applicators. If you take a walk around the outside of the treatment plant and look at the ponds, these items are what you see floating or being carried off by birds. Now, a good magic trick would include the following: You flush your item down the toilet, it makes it through the sewer main, through the pumps at the lift stations and to the treatment plant where it floats in the sun. A seagull would then pick up your item, fly it back to your house and drop it in your garbage can.

A lot of items are disposable but not biodegradable. Disposable does not mean "flush it". These items cause a lot of problems which in return cost a lot of money. Here are a few items that tend to show up when we clear a sewer plug or a plugged pump: Diapers, laundry, disposable wipes, children's toys, etc. Toilet paper is acceptable. Other than that, if it doesn't pass through your body's plumbing then it won't pass through ours.

HUMBOLDT-DEL NORTE HEROES

Recognition Luncheon

Friday, February 27, 2015
Cher-Ae Heights Casino
Trinidad, CA



AWARDS CATEGORIES 2015

Act of Kindness

Saved a Human Life

Saved a Human Life in the Line of Duty

Community Service, Individual

Community Service, Business or Organization

NOMINATIONS DUE 11/5/14: Download the form or submit nominations online at www.redcross.org/ca/eureka.

For information contact Barbara Caldwell, Barbara.caldwell@redcross.org or 707-443-4521 extension 7801.



American Red Cross
Humboldt-Del Norte Chapter

McKinleyville CSD
PO Box 2037
McKinleyville, CA 95519

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

✓ September

3 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
18 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ October

1 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
16 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ November

5 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
20 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ December

3 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
18 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ January

7 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
15 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm

✓ February

4 Board Meeting Azalea Hall 7:00 pm
19 Recreation Committee 6:00 pm



Online Information is available at www.mckinleyvillecsd.com

Have you checked out the District's website lately? If not, make sure you do...and give us some feedback.

We are constantly striving to improve the information available to you, our customer!

Visit our Website ... www.mckinleyvillecsd.com or e-mail our office at mcsd@mckinleyvillecsd.com

