



# ON TAP

Newsletter | October 2022  
www.tcwd.ca.gov

## DROUGHT STATUS UPDATE

Our current drought in California and the Southwest is what we can continue to expect in a hotter, drier future. The statewide snowmelt has not been sufficiently filling our reservoirs, and the Colorado River system is in critical decline. Fortunately, Southern California has water storage reserves, but water should be used very efficiently to make sure our storage lasts.

Fortunately, there are a lot of resources available to help your home be as water-efficient as possible, both inside and outside (where up to 70% of water use occurs). For example:

- High-Efficiency Clothes Washers: \$145 (from TCWD) + \$85 = \$230 rebate
- Premium High-Efficiency Toilets: \$100 (from TCWD) + \$40 = \$140 rebate
- “Smart” Irrigation Controllers: \$50 (from TCWD) + \$180 = \$230 rebate
- Spray to Drip Conversion: \$0.50 (from TCWD) + \$0.50 = \$1 /sq. ft. rebate
- Rain Barrels: \$35 rebate

Also, the Turf Replacement Program is offering \$3/sq. ft. for up to 5,000 sq. ft. front or back yard. That’s as much as \$15,000 to convert to a California Friendly landscape! Get more information at [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) or contact TCWD for assistance.

Currently, TCWD is in Level 2 of our Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and encouraging voluntary three-days-per-week residential outdoor watering until November, and one-day-per-week thereafter until March. We are asking our customer to continue to do their best to reduce their use as we continue to evaluate our overall drought response levels. Most of all, TCWD wants to thank you for your continued conservation efforts!

## Is Your Account Contact Information Current?



*If a water or sewer emergency occurs that affects your home or business, could we notify you right away?*

### TO UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

Call us during business hours at (949) 858-0277, or email us at [customerservice@tcwd.ca.gov](mailto:customerservice@tcwd.ca.gov) and we will update your account. Thank you for helping us to better serve you in emergencies.

## SMART METER PROJECT

Beginning in September, the District and its contractor, Ferguson Waterworks, will be coordinating the upgrading of all the water meters in our service area. The new “smart meters” will automatically collect water consumption data several times each day so leaks will be detected faster and customers will be able to better understand how they are using water at home.

The upgrade process includes a short, temporary interruption of water service to install the new meter. It is the District’s goal to notify each affected customer ahead of time before the meter upgrade process occurs to minimize project impacts. All personnel involved with the process, both District and Ferguson representatives, will have identification indicating that they are working on this project. If you have concerns about any individuals purporting to be involved with this project that do not provide identification upon request, please contact District customer service at (949) 858-0277.



## Board of Directors

Don Chadd, President  
Stephen Dopudja, Vice President  
Glenn Acosta, Director  
Ed Mandich, Director  
Mike Safranski, Director  
Fernando Paludi, General Manager

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The Board of Directors Regular Meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Facility located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public are welcome to attend or participate virtually via teleconference.

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## Board Meeting Highlights

### July 2022

- Approval of Undeveloped Land/Water Standby Charges
- Approval of Design Services Contract for Golf Club SLS Improvements
- Approval of FY2022-23 SCADA Upgrade Project

### August 2022

- Approval General Manager Employment Contract
- Information on Response to Grand Jury Report "Water in Orange County Needs One Voice"
- Approval of District Health Benefit Costs for CY2023

### September 2022

- Biennial Review of TCWD Conflict of Interest Code
- Letter of Intent with OCFA for Wildland Resource Facility
- Drought Update

## DOVE LAKE

The District has long made a practice of using recycled water for the purpose of irrigation whenever possible to reduce its impacts on drinking water supplies. The District operates the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to treat the sewage that is collected from all the residential communities located on the upper Plano in the District's service area. Once the sewage influent is treated in compliance with Title 22 Regulations of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California, the recycled water is stored in the Recycled Water Reservoir at the WWTP. This water is then used for the irrigation of the green belts, street medians, and various parks in the District, as well as the Dove Canyon golf course.

Sometimes though, the demand for recycled water can be so great that the WWTP's recycled water production alone is insufficient. In order to supplement the demand of recycled water throughout the year, the District owns and uses the urban and storm water runoff in Dove Lake, a man-made reservoir located adjacent to the Dove Canyon community. Dove Lake was acquired by the District in the early 1990s and holds over 160 million gallons of water when full. When additional recycled water is needed during the warm season to meet system demand, the District pumps Dove Lake water to the Recycled Water Reservoir at the WWTP for distribution to the recycled water users. The District actively monitors Dove Lake to ensure a water quality level that is consistent with Title 22 Regulations.



In total, TCWD processes an average of 185-acre feet per year from Dove Lake, which represents about twenty-five percent of the total amount of recycled water used in 2021 for irrigation by District customers. By blending the recycled water system with water from Dove Lake and other recycling efforts that TCWD can reduce its overall imported drinking water supplies from the Colorado River.