

SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Operations & Maintenance Office

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The extended drought in the western United States, and especially California, has affected the levels of Lakes Serena and Dulzura. Water has stopped flowing over the dam as compared to more typical years when the flow stops in early to mid-July. While the District believes there is an adequate supply of water for the summer and fall of 2014, there are a number of things you and your family can do to help minimize water use and thus the amount pumped from the lakes.

Plumbing Fixture Retrofit Program

The District will implement a plumbing fixture retrofit program on July 1st. Cabin owners will be eligible for a \$125 rebate when an older toilet (3-5 gallons/flush) is replaced with a low-flow unit (1.6 gallons/flush or less) and a \$25 rebate when an irrigation controller timer is installed. Reduced flow shower heads and faucet aerators will be available at the District office at no cost to property owners.

The District requires that your water and service lateral be tested for leakage before the close of escrow, when you undertake a significant remodel of your house or plumbing fixtures are added. The Board of Directors recently voted to update the District Ordinances to require the installation of low-flow plumbing fixtures in homes prior to the close of escrow.

Water Conservation Tips

Water use inside and outside your home, whether equipped with low-flow plumbing fixtures or not, can be reduced by simple actions such as:

- keeping a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until the water gets cold.
- fixing a leaking toilet can save as much as 500 gallons a day! Check toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, if the color appears in the bowl without flushing you have a leak.
- checking your stop&drain valve for leaks when you close the house for the winter
- repairing dripping faucets, one drop per second can add up to 2,700 gallons per year.
- turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- taking shorter showers. A quick shower rather than a bath can save an average of 20 gallons of water.
- using both sides of the sink when washing dishes. Don't wash dishes with the water running.
- using the dishwasher and clothes washer only when you have full loads.
- planting native or drought resistance landscaping species and watering in the early morning or during the evening when there is less chance of rapid evaporation.
- using mulch around trees to keep soil moist and slow evaporation.
- using a broom instead of a hose to clean walkways and driveways.
- washing your car with a bucket and hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle.

Conserve water by:

- Repair leaking toilets and faucets
- Check stop&drain valve operation
- Take short showers
- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they're full
- Irrigate landscaping in the evening

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Operations & Maintenance Staff, thank you for your cooperation and support. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about water conservation or the water and sewer system in general please don't hesitate to contact us.