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# Call for Voluntary Water Conservation

## April 2014

Dear Aromas Water District Customer:

Last year we received about 50% of our seasonal average rainfall. Though we have had some recent rain, officials are reporting our region has received only about 37% of our seasonal average precipitation to date. On January 17<sup>th</sup> Governor Brown officially declared a statewide drought emergency requesting residential water users to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%. We are asking you to help reduce your water usage.

There are numerous ways you can help:

- Visit our website: [www.aromaswaterdistrict.org](http://www.aromaswaterdistrict.org) for news and tips about conservation, indoors and out.
- Log on to your account (from our website) to see your prior year usage as a way to gauge your monthly use. Calculate your use into gallons: one cubic foot equals 7.5 gallons.
- Learn to understand your daily usage and make an effort to reduce indoor use.
  - ◆ Two 7 minute showers with a 1.5 gpm showerhead uses 21 gallons
  - ◆ Nine toilet flushings with a low-flow toilet uses a total of 12 gallons
  - ◆ One dishwasher run uses between 6-10 gallons
  - ◆ One washing machine load of clothes uses 20 gallons
  - ◆ Running water in the sink uses 1 gallon per minute
  - ◆ Leaks happen. Contact AWD to learn how to read your water meter
- Focus on landscape watering; this is usually more than 65% of your total usage. Reduce outdoor watering by: using mulch to hold moisture, installing drip water systems, replacing lawn with drought tolerant plants, irrigating in the early morning or cool evening, avoid watering when it is windy, use shut off nozzles on hoses.
- Attend the Laundry-to-Landscape Grey Water Workshop on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Aromas Grange. Learn how to install a system to recycle your washing machine water to your garden. Sign up at [www.centralcoastgreywater.org](http://www.centralcoastgreywater.org), there is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. A \$100 rebate from Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is available for grey water system installation.
- Visit your Aromas Water District drought tolerant demonstration garden anytime at the District office and on May 10<sup>th</sup>, during the Aromas Garden Tour.

Let's reduce our water impact during this current drought as well as into the future. Our district is not in a crisis yet but a prolonged drought could have potentially severe consequences for our precious water supply. Your participation is the answer.

Thank you for your continued support,

Members of the Board of Directors and Staff of Aromas Water District