

Town Council Declares Phase I Emergency

Voluntary Conservation Critical to Avoid Mandatory Water Rationing!

Yountville and the Napa County region are in a serious drought condition. 2013 was the driest recorded year on record and there is no relief in sight. Governor Brown declared a statewide drought emergency in January 2014 and called on "all Californians to conserve water in every way possible" with the goal of reducing water consumption statewide by 20%. The Yountville Town Council declared a local Phase I Water Emergency on February 4, 2014 consistent with Governor Brown's directive.

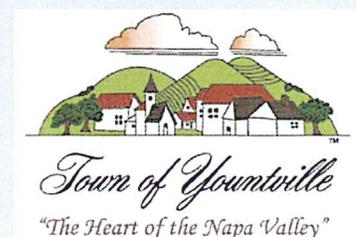
California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) officials stated water conservation measures are being implemented at the Veterans Home. They advised Town staff that Rector Reservoir is at the **lowest level in 15 years at approximately 70% of capacity**. The current long range weather forecast does not indicate that February and March will include a "March Miracle" that could fill reservoirs. The CDVA will update storage capacity at Rector Reservoir before April 1 per the agreement to provide water to the Town. CDVA is under contract to provide 500 acre feet of water annually to the Town. Last year the Town's customers used over 580 acre feet of water.

Collectively, we have the ability to prevent the need for the Town to declare a Phase 2 or Phase 3 Water Emergency in the future. A Phase 2 or 3 Declaration will involve greater levels of conservation and the possibility of rationing. If we all work together now we can avoid the potential for mandatory water rationing and penalties. Every drop of water saved now means it will be available this summer and into next year. If we don't do our part now and the drought condition continues it will only get worse. The Town staff is doing its part as you will see water reduction efforts in our parks and open space landscaping.

We are providing you with water conservation tips and practical things you can do to reduce your water usage on the back side of this page. The Town is establishing a special Water Conservation section on our web-site at www.townofyountville.com/water, where we include more comprehensive and detailed information about what you can do to conserve water and the most up to date information about the drought and water supply in Yountville.

On behalf of the Town, I encourage each of you to adopt the State motto of "Save Our Water" and work together to do your part by voluntarily reducing your water consumption by 20%.

Steven R. Rogers,
Town Manager
srogers@yville.com



What does a Phase 1 Water Emergency declaration mean to YOU?



YOU are encouraged to:

- ◆ Reduce monthly water consumption by a minimum of 10% - 20%.
- ◆ Install water saving devices in your plumbing and appliances.
- ◆ Take a good look at your outdoor watering practices. Over 50% of home usage is used for outdoor landscaping. A 500 square foot turf lawn uses more than 18,000 gallons of water per year. If the only time you walk on your lawn is to mow it, consider installing water wise landscaping. Review and change your watering frequency and techniques to reduce water runoff and waste. Use mulch.
- ◆ Limit the expansion or installation of water-using appliances, plumbing or improvements, such as lawns, gardens, landscaping, pools, sprinkler irrigation systems, wash-down equipment, larger washing machines or garbage disposal units.
- ◆ Wash cars, other vehicles, and other hard surfaces from buckets, with a quick rinse from a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
- ◆ Remember that saving water can actually save you money on your water and sewer bill.
- ◆ Check out the Town's web-site at www.townofyountville.com/water for current water conservation information. Also look to SAVE OUR WATER website www.saveourh20.org for many more tips for saving water both indoors and out.
- ◆ Understand that customers who are wasting water will be notified by the Town with a reminder that the municipal code Chapters 13.20 and 13.24 prohibit it. Wasting water can result in service being discontinued.
- ◆ Look for a new MONTHLY utility bill – anticipated in June 2014. This will allow you to better track and monitor your water consumption.
- ◆ Check out Town Sponsored Programs to help you conserve water including our Low Flow Toilet Retrofit Rebate Program, Residential Clothes Washer Rebate Program, and our new Cash for Grass Conversion Program, and coming later this year our Smart Controller Rebate Program.

Water is a critical part of California's way of life. Our economy, our environment and our day-to-day lifestyle need water to flourish. Our water is limited - especially this year. The lack of rain and snow mean that our water supply will be challenged to meet the state's needs. Conservation will help us stretch the water that we do have.