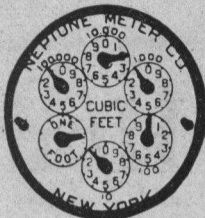


Sentinel

Water
Meter

Heat Wave Causes Water Consumption To Rise

The summer's first sustained heatwave caused too many people in the smaller north county areas to use too much water last week.

Pleas for prudent water use were made Friday by both Jim McCloud, manager of the Citizens Utilities Co. that serves Felton, and a spokesman for the Scotts Valley County Water District.

Increased water use was noted in the Soquel County Water District, as well.

Throughout the late spring and summer the managers of the various water systems have warned that the real test for the various conservation programs will come when the long summer heat arrives.

Self-discipline is urged by all the water managers to avoid problems as the summer advances.

Water consumption last week was reported as follows for the various districts in The Sentinel's weekly survey area.

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

It's imperative for customers in the Scotts Valley water district to obey fully the strictures involving use of water for gardening.

Because the district has a storage capacity limited to 1.5 million gallons, or about the equivalent of three days of usage at this time of year, the tanks need time for replenishment.

That time is given the tanks by a system that prohibits outdoor watering on weekends and on Wednesday.

"We gain 100,000 gallons in the storage tanks on the days of no outdoor watering, and lose the same amount on days watering is allowed," District Manager Jack Hinds told The Sentinel Thursday.

Last Wednesday the district had only 925,000 gallons in storage. At that time Hinds said the danger point is reached when the stored water is less than 900,000 gallons. He said also that the district is now using about 10 per cent more water daily than is produced.

Water outages and tougher restrictions loom unless district customers use water more prudently, a spokesman warned Friday.

FELTON

Felton customers of the Citizens Utilities Co. used 2,533,483 gallons last week. That consumption was about 100,000 gallons more than the previous week, according to Jim McCloud, company manager. And on Friday he said:

"Yesterday (Thursday) the people used about 75 per cent of our capacity. I am hoping against rationing out here and I am keeping my fingers crossed."

But McCloud said people simply must be careful about water use. He said there are some who let sprinklers run and send water running down the roads.

That has to stop, now — he indicated.

SAN LORENZO VALLEY

The conservation program in the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District "seems to be working fine, with rationing going fairly smoothly," said Hank Cardona, district manager.

The district is actually saving more water than had been projected, Cardona elaborated.

In June the district got 30 per cent of its water from surface source, 36 per cent from wells and 34 per cent from Loch Lomond, Cardona said.

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

Customers of the city water system continued their saving ways last week. They consumed 46.35 million gallons, compared with a normal consumption of 102 million gallons weekly at this time of year. The conservation goal for the week limited maximum consumption to 67 million gallons.

Here's a fun tip. The Santa Cruz Meme Workshop will put on shows Saturday and Sunday at the Scotts Valley Days celebration. Among other things, they use a 13-foot puppet to teach conservation.

SOQUEL WATER DISTRICT

Customers in the Soquel water district used 24.3 million gallons last week, compared with 29.3 million gallons for the same period last year, Dick Case reports.

"Things are fairly good," he added. "We have had lots of hot weather, but the wells are in good shape."