

The Wine Drinker

By TOM GABLE
Copley News Service



Impressive Efforts In Water Conservation

City of Santa Cruz water customers continued their impressive conservation efforts last week even while the Santa Cruz City Council was deciding how long the rationing regulations will remain in effect.

Rationing laws will continue to at least Nov. 12, the council decided. While that was going on, the council's constituency demonstrated their own realization that water must be saved, and save they did.

Water consumption throughout the system was 47.8 million gallons. Normal consumption at this time of year is 102 million gallons per week, meaning that under the rationing program the customers used 54.2 million gallons less than they use normally.

And another real savings was effected, for the city water department had set a maximum conservation goal to keep water use no higher than 67 gallons last week. The 20 million gallons savings represented by the difference between real use and the conservation goal is equivalent to about just under three days of water supply, based on the present consumption rate.

Keep it up, please, urge the city council, the city water commission and the city water director, Morris Allen, and his staff.

CENTRAL WATER DISTRICT

This district was reported Friday as "doing quite well. Water consumption is said to be up a bit, but there are no problems.

"However," a spokesman said, "people really should do their best to conserve so they won't run the risk of any shortages later on."

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

Customers in the Soquel Creek County Water District are still effectively saving water, according to Dick Case.

Consumed last week were 22.8 million gallons, compared with 31.4 million gallons consumed the same week last year.

This district consistently has been making dramatic cutbacks in water use, and Case hopes the effort will continue until the heavy rains come.

"The wells are holding up real good, however," Case said.

FELTON

The Citizens Utilities Co., which serves the Felton area, pumped 2,475,139 gallons last week, according to Jim McCloud, the local manager.

McCloud said the company has now read all meters for the first dry weather period and that he has found:

"Most customers are conserving very well, but there are a few customers who have not apparently read the papers and learned there is a water problem in California.

"I hope they will realize there is a shortage because of the drought and that they will conserve."

The company supply in the Felton area is holding up quite well, McCloud said.

SAN LORENZO VALLEY

"They're economizing, they're economizing, they're economizing," a San Lorenzo Valley County Water District spokesman said on the subject of district water consumption last week.

"It was reported to the trustees last week that the customers have cut back water use by 41 per cent. We have even had the Glen Arbor treatment plant off the Loch Lomond line. Everyone is happy. No problems. The district got through the July 4 weekend with flying colors."

SCOTTS VALLEY

Scotts Valley County Water District customers have a good supply of water but it is important that they obey the conservation ordinance and not water their grounds on Saturdays and Sundays.

"Because there is no watering on weekends we are able to recover our supplies," a spokesman said. "This can be very important in the hot weather."

Reported further: "Most customers are really cooperative . . . that's what makes our conservation efforts work."

CONSERVATION NOTICE

The Santa Cruz City Council this week added to the water conservation regulations a rule that forbids commercial washing of vehicles at places that do not use recycled water. This includes places where customers put a coin in a slot and wash their own vehicles, using water and other supplies on the premises.

You may wash your car privately if you use a pail and sponge or a hose with a snap-off nozzle that really works. But be careful.

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