



A Community Newsletter from the Contra Costa Water District | Volume 21, Number 2, Summer 2007

## Renew Your Commitment to Water Conservation



year's rainfall. If we dip too deeply into our water reserves this summer, and we have another dry winter, we could be facing a water shortage next summer. You can help protect our water reserves this summer by renewing

your commitment to water conservation and ensuring that you always use water efficiently.

by thermal power plants burning fossil fuels. There are many ways to save water indoors and outdoors. Here are some water conservation tips to help you save water and, as an added bonus, hold down the cost of your water bill.

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When the summer sun is sizzling above us, it's easy to forget the importance of using water wisely in our homes, landscapes and workplaces. Summertime, however, is the time when water conservation efforts are most needed.

Last winter was one of California's driest, and no one can predict next

year's rainfall. If we dip too deeply into our water reserves this summer, and we have another dry winter, we could be facing a water shortage next summer. You can help protect our water reserves this summer by renewing

your commitment to water conservation and ensuring that you always use water efficiently. Saving water also saves energy and reduces the emission of greenhouse gases into the environment. Pumping, treating and distributing water is the largest single use of California's electricity, much of which is generated

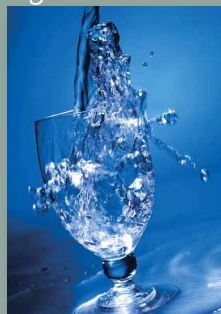
For more ways to save water, including information about CCWD's high-efficiency toilet and clothes washer rebates, go to [www.ccwater.com/conserves](http://www.ccwater.com/conserves) or call the Conservation Department at (925) 688-8320

## Water-Conserving Customers Deserve a Round of Applause!

Contra Costa Water District customers have an excellent record of saving water. In 2006, customers who participated in the Contra Costa Water District's conservation programs saved more than 3,000 acre-feet of water, enough to supply 6,000 families for an entire year.

But that is only part of the story. Since the conservation programs started in 1989, participating customers have saved a total of 30,000 acre-feet

of water. That is enough water to supply 60,000 families for an entire year.



If you would like to be part of the 2007 conservation effort, CCWD is ready to help with free on-site conservation surveys for residential and commercial properties, conservation devices and rebates for high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers. Just go to [www.ccwater.com/conserves](http://www.ccwater.com/conserves) or call (925) 688-8320 for more information.

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The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) serves treated and untreated water to approximately 550,000 people in central and eastern Contra Costa County. CCWD provides treated water to Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Port Costa and parts of Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek.

In addition, CCWD sells wholesale treated water to the City of Antioch and the Golden State Water Company in Bay Point, and treats water at the Randall-Bold Water Treatment Plant in Oakley for distribution to the Diablo Water District and the City of Brentwood.

CCWD also sells untreated water to the cities of Antioch, Martinez and Pittsburg and the Golden State Water Company in Bay Point, as well as 22 industrial customers.



## CCWD RECEIVES GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) has been certified as a Green Business by the Contra Costa division of the Bay Area Green Business program.

The certification is bestowed on businesses that operate in an environmentally responsible manner, proving that they are committed to protecting the environment through pollution prevention and resource protection.

The Bay Area Green Business Program was developed in 1998 by local governments in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Association of Bay Area Governments. To become certified, agencies must undergo a rigorous evaluation of their programs and facilities and comply with numerous standards that prevent pollution.

Certification as a Green Business is evidence of CCWD's leadership in environmental protection and commitment to acting as a responsible member of the community. For more information about the Green Business Program, go to [www.greenbiz.ca.gov](http://www.greenbiz.ca.gov).

## CCWD is doing its part to protect the environment in the following ways:

**Relying Less on Fossil Fuels:** We're working to reduce fossil fuel consumption by 5 percent a year for the next three years. To do this, standard-engine fleet vehicles are being replaced with gas-electric hybrids where feasible, alternative fuels are being considered and driving routines are being adjusted to improve overall mileage.

**Exploring Hydropower Generation:** We're exploring the possibility of cleanly generating power using the pressure in the Los Vaqueros Pipeline, a 20-mile pipeline that brings water from the Los Vaqueros Reservoir to District facilities in East Contra Costa County.

**Facilitating Sustainable Windpower:** We support the generation of clean windpower. The 20,000-acre Los Vaqueros Watershed is home to hundreds of wind turbines that cleanly produce renewable wind energy to help meet California's increasing demand for electricity.

**Saving Water Saves Energy:** By encouraging people to save water, we ultimately reduce the amount of electricity used to pump, store, treat and distribute water. In California, water-related energy use is the single largest use of electricity, much of which is produced by thermal power plants that emit greenhouse gases.

*The Contra Costa Water District has a long history of being a good environmental steward. These are just a few of the ways we continue our commitment to the environment and the community.*

# Commitment to Conservation

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## Easy Ways to Save Water Indoors

**STOP TOILET LEAKS:** Toilet leaks can sneak up on you. You can have one and not even know it. Water can quietly leak from the tank to the bowl, causing your toilet to run occasionally. This can result in significant water waste in an otherwise water-conserving household. To detect a toilet leak, add several drops of dark food coloring to the tank. If the color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. Often, fixing the leak is as simple as replacing the flapper at the bottom of the tank. Or the leak may be the result of the water level being set too high. Whatever the problem, you will want to get it fixed right away to ensure that you always use water wisely.

**GET HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILETS:** You can reduce the amount of water you use to flush toilets by as much as 60 percent by replacing toilets manufactured before 1992 with new high-efficiency toilets. These new toilets use advanced technology to reduce water use and improve flushing performance. For a limited time, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is offering rebates of up to \$175 per qualifying toilet. For a list of qualifying models and program guidelines, visit [www.ccwater.com](http://www.ccwater.com) or call (925) 688-8320.

**GET A HIGH-EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHER:** By replacing your older top-loading clothes washer with a new high-efficiency model, you can save a significant amount of water and energy. High-efficiency washers use 50 percent less water and energy than conventional washers, and they are kinder to your clothes. For a limited time, CCWD is offering rebates of up to \$100. For a list of qualifying models and program guidelines, visit [www.ccwater.com](http://www.ccwater.com) or call (925) 688-8320.

**DON'T FORGET THE SMALL STUFF:** Taking short showers, turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth, installing aerators in your faucets and not running the dishwasher until it is full may seem like small measures, but they add up over time. If everyone saved a little water here and there, the savings would be huge. Saving water in small ways is especially appealing to children, who usually want to help but are limited in what they can do.

## Easy Ways to Save Water Outdoors

**STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SPRINKLER TIMER:** Adjusting your sprinkler timer regularly to reflect changes in the weather can be the single biggest water-saving action you can take. Automatic sprinkler timers are very helpful, but if they are not adjusted properly they can automatically waste water. Every month, adjust your timer and inspect your landscape, including soil moisture, to determine its need for water. For a typical home, reducing the watering schedule by one minute on each sprinkler station will save more than 50 gallons a day.

**MULCH, MULCH, MULCH:** Applying a 2 to 3-inch layer of mulch to your landscape will reduce water evaporation from the soil by as much as 70 percent. It will also reduce weed growth and keep your plants' roots cool in the summer.

**REDUCE OR ELIMINATE YOUR LAWN:** Lawn is the thirstiest plant in most home landscapes. Consider replacing some or all of your lawn with a beautiful deck or low-water-use garden. CCWD is offering a free Waterwise Gardening CD-ROM. You can get one by visiting [www.ccwater.com](http://www.ccwater.com) or call (925) 688-8320.

R E A D Y . . . S E T . . . G O !

## Second Tarantula Run Set for October 27



The Second Annual Los Vaqueros Tarantula Run is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27, with the start and finish at the Kellogg Creek Picnic Area in the Los Vaqueros Watershed.

The first race in 2006 was a tremendous success, with more than 380 runners participating. For 2007, the run will once again feature 5K, 10K and half-marathon courses, and the same hilly and demanding courses that were used last year will be used this year. This allows returning runners the opportunity to beat their times.

Improvements to the run will include some children's activities and an increased number of aid stations. For more information about the event or to register, go to [www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros/TarantulaRun.asp](http://www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros/TarantulaRun.asp).