



OUR WATER SUPPLY

Get Ready for the
Heat of Summer...

Help Your Landscape Handle a Heat Wave

(without breaking the water bank!)



It was spring of 2004, when a high-pressure system settled in over California, bringing a record-setting *heat wave* to much of the state. It peaked when temperatures reached triple digits across the southern part of California. Record high temperatures hit the Bay Area as well – including Redwood City, where residents were rightly concerned for the health of their lawns, gardens, and landscaping.

What did you do at that time?

Thousands of residents rushed to their yards to soak their lawns and plants, and *kept the water going even after the heat wave had passed!* The result? A whopping 20% increase in water use for April – a total of nearly 70 million gallons overage, with a similar amount of water used in May. That excess water use drove the City's total annual water purchases to a record high of 13,653 acre feet, exceeding our allotment by 1,410 acre feet (460 million gallons over our allotment).

What we could have done differently...

Much of that huge increase in water use was avoidable, by simply reducing the amount of water applied to landscaping after the two-week heat wave ended. Residents could easily have cut back the number of watering days and/or the length of watering time to dramatically decrease water use while preserving their landscapes. It's important to change your irrigation program as the seasons change. Ideally you should check and reprogram your sprinkler clock at least weekly to maximize efficiency—even a monthly change to the irrigation schedule can result in substantial water savings and improved plant health. So if a similar heat wave hits us this year, try these helpful tips for preserving your vegetation, while thoughtfully and efficiently conserving water:

- **First and foremost**—once the heat wave has broken, re-set your automatic sprinklers to the appropriate schedule for the season! Last year, *millions of gallons* of water were wasted because people continued with heavy over-watering even when the weather returned to normal. *Always be aware of your water scheduling.*
- Inspect the sprinkler system frequently to make sure your sprinkler heads are operating correctly—repair leaks and breaks immediately.
- Check the schedule on your sprinkler controller frequently—be sure it's suitable for the season (*this is a good practice year 'round!*).
- Water during the morning hours to prevent water loss from evaporation.
- Aerate your lawn as frequently as possible and wait at least one day after irrigation before you mow grass so that the soil is as dry as practical.
- Visit the great website www.h2house.org for more water-conserving landscape tips!

Spring is Here!



...and Redwood City Suggests Two Great Spring Cleaning and Household Tune-up Projects for this Season!



Go to www.redwoodcity.org/conservation to learn more!

Get a rebate of up to \$250 when you purchase a new high-efficiency clothes washer - save money, water, and energy every time you wash a load!

High-efficiency washing machines deliver excellent performance while reducing water use and energy consumption by up to 50% over conventional top-loading washers, and require less detergent. The average household can save up to 5,100 gallons of water and reduce their energy bill by \$78 per year.



Rebate forms are available at appliance stores in Redwood City and throughout the Peninsula area where high-efficiency washing machines are sold.

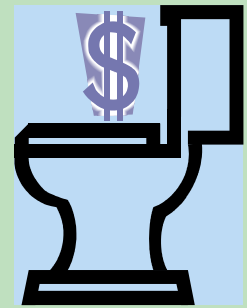
Visit www.redwoodcity.org/conservation for all the details!

Redwood City's DIRECT INSTALL TOILET REPLACEMENT PROGRAM is now underway!

...and it's never been easier to get a brand new low-flow toilet, and start saving water now!

Here's how it works:

- 1) To qualify, your old toilet must use 3.5 gallons per flush or more (see our website to learn how to calculate this number).
- 2) Call our water conservation hotline at 780-7436 and we'll send you a form to fill out (or go to our website for an online form).
- 3) After you send that form back, we'll call to make an appointment.
- 4) Our technician will come to your home, remove your old water-waster, and install the new low-flow toilet—your choice of conventional gravity-style, or high-tech pressure assisted! You also get free water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators to save even more water. Commercial customers get the appropriate style of ultra low-flush toilet. **That's it—you don't pay a dime!**



You can't get a better deal on helping to reduce your water use, and save money at the same time!

If you'd rather select and install your own low-flow toilet, you can do that too and enjoy a substantial rebate (the amount depends on the type of toilet you buy). See www.redwoodcity.org/conservation for information on how to take advantage of this great deal!