

ACONA Meeting Notes

September 23, 2014

Following introductions, the following topic was discussed: The Drought

Speakers:

Lisa Yamashita-Lopez, Operations Manager, Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

Robert J. Hayward, General Manager, Lincoln Avenue Water Company

William Kimberling, General Manager, Las Flores Water Co

Altadena has three mutual water companies: Las Flores, Rubio Cañon (www.rclwa.org), and Lincoln Avenue (www.lawc.org). A small part of Altadena is served by the Pasadena Department of Water and Power. The three mutuals pump from the Monk Hill aquifer.

Mutual water companies are not-for-profit agencies. They charge enough to cover costs. They are member agencies of the Foothill Municipal Water District (FMWD). They are owned by the property owners, who hold shares.

In January, Governor Brown declared we are in a drought. That means there are mandates to conserve water.

Ground water is depleted, and there has been no rain. Lake Mead is down 40% below what it should be.

Second drought proclamation by the governor in April. In July, the state water board fast-tracked new emergency conservation regulations.

Memorandum of Understanding from State Board of Water Control about unplanned discharge (broken pipes, for example). More examples: Utilities have to do well rehabilitation, which results in some water loss. Water companies also have to flush their lines 2-3 times a year, a Department of Health requirement. Fire department periodically tests hydrants, resulting in water loss.

"Water Cops": Community has to help the water company help their neighbors. If you see someone excessively watering their lawns or otherwise wasting water, talk to them.

Don't:

- Hose down the driveway or sidewalk.
- Water your lawn so that it causes runoff into the street or sidewalk.
- Leave broken sprinkler heads unrepaired.
- Use a hose without a fitted shutoff (e.g., when washing your car).
- Water in the middle of the day (must be before 9am or after 5pm)
- Use potable water in a water feature (fountain, for example) - unless it is recycled in the feature.
- Water more than 3x a week.

Do:

- Water shaded areas less.
- Check your automatic timers to make sure you are following the watering guidelines.

- Check your automatic timers after a power outage to make sure they are still set to the correct times/days.
- Do a walkthrough of your watering system.
- Check for leaks, running toilets.
- Cover pools and ponds.
- Wash full loads.

Conservation rebates: www.fmwd.com/conservation.aspx

Conservation tips: <http://ca.gov/drought>

www.saveourh2o.org

www.bewaterwise.com

Water companies will leave notices pointing out water problems, as a courtesy, either because they got a report, or through direct observation of a problem. Callers reporting problems remain anonymous.

Water companies don't encourage use of gray water because of health issues, but they don't forbid it either. Each homeowner needs to make their own determination after research.

Altadena wells:

Well water levels have dropped 20-25 feet because of the drought.

Lincoln: current ratio is 70% groundwater, 30% purchased from Metropolitan Water District, but groundwater varies from season to season, as does the supply from the MWD.

Las Flores: 35% groundwater, 65% purchased because there is only one well.

Rubio: 60% groundwater, 40% purchased