

PURISSIMA PIPELINE

Emergency Planning

Last month, the District reviewed its emergency plan for a major earthquake. If the earthquake is strong enough, it is possible that a number of main breaks will occur, resulting in system-wide water outages. The District's primary responsibility is to ensure that water is preserved by isolating leaks as quickly as possible. Once the system is stabilized, crews will start repairing broken water mains, which may take days or weeks to complete. Our supplier, the SFPUC, may also experience extensive damage to the Hetch Hetchy system, resulting in limited supplies.

Customers must also help conserve the water that is in the system after a major earthquake by shutting off all irrigation. Do not turn back on until you are sure it is all right to do so. Reduce all water use, as well—do not wash clothes or your car, or waste water in any way.

Prepare for an emergency by taking these steps now:

- ✓ Learn where your irrigation valves are located and how to turn off your timers.
- ✓ Install your own shut-off valve approximately one foot from the meter on your side of the property. This way, you can turn off water to your entire property in case you have a leak and turn it back on after repairs have been made. (District meters should not be used to turn off water. A special tool is required and many meters become “sticky,” making them difficult to turn off.) During an emergency, crews will be busy making repairs to District facilities and we cannot guarantee that someone will be readily available to make “house calls.”
- ✓ Maintain a minimum three-day emergency water supply for each person in your household—and change the water frequently.
- ✓ Be sure that the District always has a current contact phone number for your residence. In case of an emergency, we can keep the public updated via the Town's emergency telephone system, if the phone lines are still active.

Update—10% Voluntary Water Reduction

The 10% voluntary water reduction request, in place since the summer of 2007, was recently re-publicized by the Governor who announced official drought conditions this June. The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) represents the interests of 27 agencies (including Purissima) that purchase water on a wholesale basis from the San Francisco regional water system (Hetch Hetchy). These agencies, as a whole, have seen a 13% reduction in water use. However, the Purissima Hills Water District has reduced its usage by only 2%.

This upcoming rainy season is the determining factor on whether we will see a voluntary water reduction move into a mandatory water reduction. We are here to assist you in your conservation planning. Please call the office to set up an appointment with our Conservation Specialist to see what you can do to help attain the District's goal of a 10% water reduction.

Alexsis Shields
Conservation Specialist
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