



KID News

Summer 2010

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Water Shortage Continues Despite Normal Rainfall

By Melvin L. Matthews, General Manager

The most frequent question asked by my family, friends and customers is “whether or not our water shortage problem is solved?” I can understand their puzzled reaction when I say “no.” After all we did get 24 inches of rain this season which is close to the average for the season over the past one hundred years; and the numerous articles and images about the continuing multi-year drought have faded in the minds of the people.

What is the problem?

Unfortunately good rainfall in a single year does very little to replenish the local aquifer or increase the amount of water that percolates out of the

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Water-Saving Tips

Check this list to maximize your water use efficiency

- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Run full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Use a broom to clean paved surfaces.
- Water your yard before 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation.
- Install a smart weather-based sprinkler controller.
- Adjust sprinkler runtime to reduce runoff.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid overspray
- Buy water-efficient appliances.
- Install permeable paving.
- Replace landscaping with California-friendly plants.
- Replace lawn with artificial turf.
- Install drip irrigation or low-flow sprinklers.
- Reduce watering frequency to two days a week.
- Use mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.

In Memoriam

Maurice Pickard 1937-2010

Maurice was devoted to community service in his neighborhood and as the Director of Division 4 on the Board of the Kinneloa Irrigation District for nearly ten years. We extend our deepest sympathy to Pauline and the family and want to express our gratitude for his valuable contribution and his friendship.



AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

Take advantage of our automatic payment plan and be assured that your account is always paid on time even if you are on vacation. You will still receive a monthly statement to keep track of your water usage and know the amount that will be debited from your bank account later in the month. Call 626-797-6295 today to request an application.

local mountains and is collected via our water tunnels. These sources provide 100% of the KID water and it would take many years of normal or above average rainfall to make a significant impact.

Why can't the KID just purchase imported water to supplement our locally produced water?

Imported water supplies from Northern California are at an extremely low level of availability due to many factors including the court-ordered restrictions in the pumping at the intake plant for the California Aqueduct at the southern end of San Francisco Bay Delta. Furthermore, because the completion of the proposed "fixes" to the Delta and the construction of a conveyance around or under the Delta are decades away, imported water from Northern California will continue to be in short supply and at a very high cost well into the future.

Even if imported water becomes more readily available to supplement our local water, the projected cost of that water is ten times more than the cost of our locally produced water. The additional cost would need to be recovered through higher water rates.

What is the KID doing to find other sources of supplemental water?

In cooperation with seven other local water agencies and the Foothill Municipal Water District, we are conducting engineering and financial studies to determine the feasibility of constructing small recycled water plants in the area to provide irrigation water to parks, golf courses, and nurseries as well as to provide recharge water for the local aquifer. We are also working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to maximize the retention and percolation of storm water to recharge the aquifer. Because this "new" water would replace or supplement existing local groundwater

sources, additional water would be available for domestic purposes.

Is Desalinated Sea Water a Practical Alternative?

Several coastal water agencies are building pilot plants to further explore the economics of desalination as compared with imported and recycled water. Unfortunately desalination uses a great deal of electrical energy in the process of producing drinking water. Plus additional energy would be needed to pump the treated water from sea level to our service area which is at an elevation of between 1000-1600 feet.

Desalination will become an important part of the supplemental water supply in the greater Southern California area but probably will not be a practical alternative for the KID.

What Can I Do Now to Help Solve the Shortage?

Conservation will continue to be the least expensive "source" of water. KID customers have collectively reduced consumption 14% over the past two years and the KID will continue to encourage water efficiency and participate in regional rebate programs in order to meet or exceed the 20% by 2020 goal set by Governor Schwarzenegger. ***Water saved is water not needed from expensive supplemental sources.*** The KID Board of Directors and Staff thank you for your cooperation in finding a solution to the water shortage that will allow us to continue to serve you with high-quality water at a reasonable price. Please check the water-saving tips on page one of this newsletter to make sure you are doing your share in maximizing your water use efficiency. Go to <http://www.socalwatersmart.com> for rebate information.

Your questions and comments are welcome. You can e-mail us at newsletter@kinneloirrigationdistrict.info or include a note with your payment.