

Water Watch

www.amwc.us

Atascadero Mutual Water Company

July 2007

FREE Water Wise Landscape Workshops

Once again, the North County Partners in Water Conservation will offer a free summer workshop series designed to maximize outdoor water efficiency and prevent high summer water bills. Seating is limited. Visit www.amwc.us or call 461-7217 x17, for additional information and to reserve a seat.

Plant Selection for North County Landscapes

See and learn about 75 plant species that once established will survive without water. Choosing the right plants reduces ongoing maintenance and the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides and will help make your landscape a place you will enjoy year-round.

*August 11th, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Paso Robles Library, Paso Robles*

Plant Selection I: Fall & Winter

Plant Selection I explores the delights of the fall and winter garden. The extreme temperatures in the North County support a wide variety of foliage, fruits, and flowers that grow outside with little effort during the cold while you stay warm inside.

*September 19th, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Templeton Community Center, Templeton*

*September 20th, 6:00-8:00 pm
AMWC Office, 5005 El Camino Real*

Plant Selection II: Spring & Summer

Fall is the time to plant for year-round success in the North County climate. Plant Selection II looks at exciting plants that you can plant this fall for next spring and summer that offer color, texture, interest, and require little water.

*September 26th, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Templeton Community Center, Templeton*

*September 27th, 6:00-8:00 pm
AMWC Office, 5005 El Camino Real*

Nacimiento Water Project Update

The Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC) Board of Directors will discuss continued participation in the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) at its August 8, 2007 meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the AMWC administrative office at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero. The NWP is the single largest water supply project that AMWC has considered in its 93-year history.

In August 2004, AMWC entered into a Delivery Entitlement Contract with the County of San Luis Obispo for participation in the NWP. AMWC must reaffirm its willingness to participate in the NWP under the opt-out provisions of the Contract if total project costs exceed \$150 million. Current design estimates for construction of the project are \$190 million, with AMWC's share being approximately \$39 million.

The NWP will improve the reliability of AMWC's water supply and the ability to meet the future water needs of AMWC's shareholders. The project has already had a large effect on connection fees and will have a significant effect on water rates - in the near future and again when the project comes on line in the fall of 2010. AMWC shareholders are encouraged to attend this very important meeting regarding the future of their water supply.



Mid-summer walks along the Anza trail reveal patches of Giant woolstar casting a periwinkle haze against the Salinas River sands. To see Giant woolstar, access the trail from Sycamore Road in River Gardens and walk north. Anza Trail maps are available at the AMWC Office located at 5005 EL Camino Real, or visit www.nps.gov/jubal.

Save H₂O and Save \$ with Smart Rebates

California's growing population puts an ever-increasing strain on our limited water supply. One of the best ways to meet this increasing demand is for homeowners to install the latest water-saving toilets and clothes washers available. Take advantage of these Smart Rebates and help lessen the demand on our resources by conserving water while saving money.



High-Efficiency Clothes Washers (HEWs) | (6.0 gallons per wash or less) | \$150 rebate per washer

The High-Efficiency Clothes Washer (HEW) uses 35-50% less water than non-efficient models. This reduction in water use means about 50% less energy needed to heat the water.

Limit one per dwelling unit.

High-Efficiency Toilets (HETs) | (1.28 gpf or less) | \$100

The average water savings for High-Efficiency Toilets (HETs) is estimated to be 19,000 gallons per year when replacing an average, non-efficient toilet and 4,000 gallons per year when replacing a ULFT (ultra low flow toilet).

Limit three per dwelling unit.

Smart Rebates is a statewide water rebate program administered by the California Urban Water Conservation Council, and funded by Atascadero Mutual Water Company and the California Department of Water Resources.

Applications and qualifying models lists are available by visiting www.amwc.us and clicking on the Smart Rebates icon or by calling 1-800-563-5874. All fixtures and appliances must be purchased on or after March 1, 2007. Other program restrictions and eligibility requirements apply. Not all models qualify for rebates.

Free Home Water Survey

You are invited to participate in our highly successful **Home Water Survey Program**. The program is free and is designed to help our customers conserve water and manage their landscape irrigation more efficiently.

During your **Home Water Survey**, AMWC's water conservation staff will:

- ◆ Inspect each irrigation station
- ◆ Create a site-specific irrigation schedule
- ◆ Provide you with a checklist of improvements for your irrigation system
- ◆ Check toilets for leaks
- ◆ Show you how to read your water meter
- ◆ Provide other water conservation tips

Each appointment is tailored to meet your needs; a typical appointment takes between 60 and 90 minutes. We encourage you to take advantage of this free program by calling 461-7217, ext.17, and we look forward to hearing from you.

SMART TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR LANDSCAPE WATER USE IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

Water use increases during the summer months primarily due to water used for our landscapes. Irrigation systems, or automatic sprinkler systems, help you to enjoy your yard and keep it healthy and beautiful. By following a few easy tips, you can ensure that your irrigation system operates efficiently all summer and year round.



The key to efficient irrigation is applying just enough water, and only when necessary—and these tips:

- Adjust your irrigation system timer seasonally—and more frequently during the summer to save even more water.
- Apply water in short cycles to allow absorption without runoff.
- Add a rain shut-off switch to your system. This inexpensive device keeps sprinklers off in wet weather and can be retrofitted to most systems by a professional.
- Check your system monthly for broken heads or leaks that can turn an efficient system into a water guzzler.
- Adjust sprinkler heads routinely to keep water on the landscape and off pavement and structures.

For more tips, visit: www.smartirrigationmonth.org