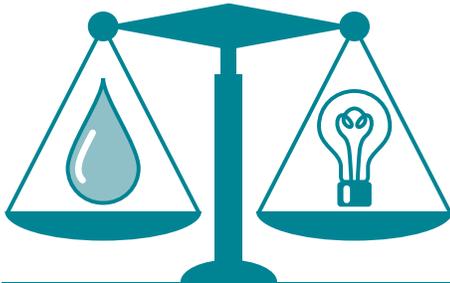


Water Ways

Water and Energy: An Expensive Connection



**SAVING WATER
SAVES ELECTRICITY**

Last year's change in SMUD's rate structure for business has resulted in increased costs for the electricity required to operate the district's water treatment plant, groundwater wells and administration building. The new rate structure includes additional charges during the peak energy demand time of 2 p.m – 8 p.m. These

hours are also times of high water use by district customers.

The district now pays three times more for the electricity it requires during these peak hours. As a result, the district's SMUD electric bill has increased 47 percent and is currently budgeted at \$1.2 million dollars for the year.

To ease the strain on the power grid and reduce district operating costs, **please avoid outdoor watering during the peak energy period of 2 p.m. – 8 p.m. and water no more than three days per week.** Please remember the district's costs for electricity are directly related to water usage within the district. The higher the water usage — the higher the electricity usage and resulting energy costs. Using water efficiently saves both water and energy.

WE'RE DOING OUR PART!

District Water and Energy Conservation

Carmichael Water District utilizes the following energy conservation programs within its facilities:

- State of California's Cool Savings Program for Peak Load Reduction (Cool Roof Program) at the administration building.
- SMUD energy efficient lighting at the water treatment plant and administration building.
- High efficiency motors at water treatment plant and all well sites.
- Water efficient landscapes at well sites.
- Conservation garden at the district's administration building.
- Drought resistant landscaping (xeriscape) and natural areas at the water treatment plant.

Why Switch to a Metered Rate?

- Meters are an excellent tool for detecting leaks.
- Meters can be a useful tool for increasing water efficiency at home. The district will read your water meter on a bimonthly basis and provide the water usage on your metered billing statement so you can easily track and control your water use during the year.

- Meters provide the district with important historical data for long-term planning and help the district better manage changes in demand, leading to improved system operation.
- Meters are recommended by the Sacramento Area Water Forum, a nationally recognized project to preserve the American River and ensure a reliable water supply for the next 30 years.

For more information, or to request meter installation for your property

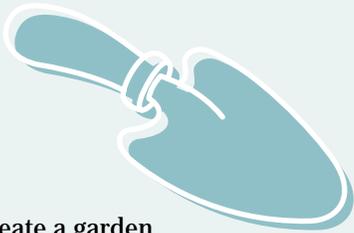
and switch to a metered rate, please contact Carmichael Water District at (916) 483-2452.



Easy Water Saving Tips



Avoid over-watering your lawn. Test soil moisture with an inexpensive moisture meter from your local hardware store or by using a screwdriver as a soil probe. If the screwdriver goes in easily, don't water.



Create a garden that is both beautiful and water efficient by installing low water use plants. Also, be sure to group plants according to their water needs to get the most from your watering time.



A silent toilet leak can waste up to 50 gallons of water a day. Check for leaks by putting food coloring in your toilet tank. If color seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. The toilet flapper is often the culprit when it comes to leaks. Luckily, flappers are simple to replace, inexpensive and easily found at most home improvement stores.



Carmichael Founder's Day Celebration

Carmichael Chamber of Commerce board president, Susan Skinner and board secretary, Debbie Rajender, with the Maytag Neptune washer that will be on display in the Carmichael Water District booth at the Carmichael

Founder's Day Celebration in Carmichael Park, September 21. The annual Carmichael Park event kicks off at 10 a.m. and is sponsored by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce and the Carmichael Recreation and Park District.

We Want to Know!

Carmichael Water District wants to learn more about the water topics and issues that interest or concern you most. So, we've included a brief survey in this issue of Water Ways.

Please take a moment to answer and return the enclosed questionnaire for the chance to win a **new Maytag Neptune washing machine, donated by Maytag in partnership with SMUD.** The Maytag Neptune is designed to handle the toughest laundry and is water-and-energy efficient.

The district is handing out special water conservation products to anyone delivering a completed questionnaire to

the front counter of the district office at 7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard. Be one of the first five people to return the questionnaire and receive a complete water conservation kit.



Complete and return the CWD survey for a chance to win a new water-and-energy efficient Neptune washing machine **donated by Maytag.** During the Carmichael Founder's Day celebration on September 21, Carmichael Water District in partnership with SMUD, will draw the name of one lucky winner from the returned surveys. Please, only one entry per household.

DISTRICT WATER PRESSURE IMPROVES

Many of the district's customers are enjoying increased water pressure because of recent district improvements. Depending on where you're located, pressure is up as much as 20 percent due to pipeline projects, pressure zone equalization and upgrades in pumping equipment at the Dewey Drive reservoir.

The increase in water pressure means you should cut the length of time spent watering your yard, since more water is delivered in a shorter time period. It also means irrigation systems, once set to water only grass and landscape, may now be watering the house or sidewalk.

Here are some helpful tips for making the most of the district's improved water pressure:

- ✓ Reprogram your irrigation systems to run for a shorter period of time. As an example, if your sprinkler system currently operates for 10 minutes, try reducing it by one minute. You'll still get the coverage you need and reduce your outdoor water use by 10 percent.
- ✓ Adjust your sprinkler system so only your lawn is watered and not the sidewalk or street.

REMEMBER



Water your outdoor landscaping three times a week or less and avoid outdoor watering and excessive water use during the peak energy hours between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.



Top: Mrs. Johnston's fourth grade class, Starr King Elementary School
Bottom: Mrs. Jolly's third grade class, Carmichael Elementary School

Awards and Honors

- Two elementary schools within the Carmichael Water District have been honored with awards from *The Sacramento Bee* and Regional Water Authority. In May, over 150 schools in the region competed in the "Be Water Wise" public education campaign. The "Be Water Wise" program encouraged school children to develop creative water conservation tips. Congratulations to Mrs. Jolly's third grade class at Carmichael Elementary School and Mrs. Johnston's fourth grade class at Starr King Elementary School for being selected as "Be Water Wise" winners.
- Carmichael Water District has been nominated to receive a Sacramento County 2002 Pollution Prevention Award, for design and construction of the district's water treatment plant.
- Steve Nugent, the district's assistant manager, was a guest speaker at the National Water Research Institute International Membrane Conference held in May in Costa Mesa, Calif. Steve presented information about the construction and operation of the district's water treatment plant, which is one of the largest water treatment plants in the United States using membrane filtration technology.

Carmichael Water District

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Board Approves Budget and Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2002-03

The Board of Directors adopted the district's annual budget for fiscal year 2002-03 and set water rates effective July 1. Due to increased energy costs, which now represent about 30 percent of the district's operating budget, and the need to begin repaying principal in debt service payments, water rates increased by 12.7 percent. For the majority of the district's customers this is an increase of \$4.48 per month. The district is also relying upon available reserves to pay for a substantial portion of the fiscal year 2002-03 capital program costs.

Printed on recycled paper. Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

Test Your Knowledge

- 1 How many gallons per minute can you save by using a pistol-grip nozzle on your watering hose?
HINT: 2, 4, or 10 gallons
- 2 What helps slow evaporation in your landscape area, can save more than 1,500 gallons of water per month and makes your garden look tidy?
- 3 How many gallons per month can you save by cutting your shower time by one or two minutes?
HINT: 250, 700 or 1,000 gallons
- 4 Covering your _____ to eliminate evaporation can save you 3,000 gallons of water a month.
- 5 By reducing your lawn size and incorporating water efficient plants into your garden, how many gallons of water per month can you save?
HINT: 500, 1,200 or 1,800 gallons
- 6 What is the **FIT** challenge?

ANSWERS

1. 10.
2. A two- to three-inch layer of mulch around your trees and flowers.
3. 700
4. Pool
5. 1,800
6. Fix a silent toilet leak. Install a low-flow showerhead and Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. These water-saving tips will help drastically reduce water waste in the bathroom.