



OILDALE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

NEWSLETTER

Your Water Company Since 1919

Fall • 2015 Volume 11

Conservation Still Needed in Severe Drought

As a water company, Oildale Mutual (OMWC) has not fulfilled the state’s 36 percent mandate for reduction in water usage, but trends tell us we can reach that goal. In June we saved 27 percent of our water and in July we saved 32 percent, compared to the same time periods in 2013. Our water usage is steadily decreasing and we are on our way to meeting Governor Brown’s mandate!

The best way we can reduce our water usage is to monitor our irrigation habits. Did you know outdoor watering makes up nearly 75 percent of the average household’s annual water use? During the summer it can account for over 80 percent. Cutting back on outside water use provides the best way to reduce your summer consumption.

“Take a moment to look around the next time you water,” Doug Nunneley, General Manager of OMWC said. “Reduce your watering time until you see your lawn start to show signs of stress or drying out. If only certain areas are showing stress, you can hand water those areas.”

To reduce our usage by 36 percent, we suggest watering between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. and setting automatic sprinklers between midnight and 8 a.m. This will reduce the effects of evaporation before the water reaches the roots of your lawn and plants, and prevent wasted water. You can take water conservation a step further by switching to drought-resistant plants and watering only twice a week.

Currently households are allowed to water three times per week on the following days:

- Even numbered houses may water on Wednesday, Fridays and Sundays
- Odd numbered houses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- No watering on Mondays

Most of our water conservation will take place outside, but there are still many ways to conserve water indoors such as taking shorter showers, not letting the tap run while brushing, shaving or washing the dishes, routinely checking your utilities for leaks and installing high efficiency toilets and showerheads.

“Everything we do to conserve water adds up”

“Everything we do to conserve water adds up,” Nunneley said. “Some things like turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth may seem minor, but every drop counts and you never know what could push us over the state’s mandate.”

If after time the state still feels our company IS NOT doing a satisfactory job of conserving water, we could be subject to even more limited irrigation days and steep fines for non-compliance. However, we won’t have to worry about additional actions if we all do our part to meet our conservation goal of 36 percent. We are growing closer to our goal each day and we thank you for your continued participation in water conservation efforts.



WATERING DAYS:



ODD



EVEN

Ross Johnson Brings “Conservative and Practical” Approach to OMWC Board

Ross Johnson spent the better part of 47 years learning everything there was to know about the oil and gas industry. He logged countless hours as a mechanical inspector for cogeneration facilities and as an owner of several businesses. One of which was in construction. Johnson most recently worked as the Vice President and General Manager of West Coast Operations Woodgroup PSN before retiring at the end of 2014.

If you only had three words to sum up Johnson’s approach to business they would be “conservative and practical.” He is very impressed with the Board of Director’s business sense and their genuine compassion for the Company and its stockholders.

“The Company is well-run and has a history of long-term employment by the General Manager and staff,” Johnson said.

In fact, before retiring, his wife Jane worked for Oildale Mutual for over 20 years. As a result he became interested in the inner workings of the Company. So much so that when the opportunity to become a board member presented itself, it was too good to pass up.

Johnson was born and raised in Oildale, where he attended Standard School and graduated from North High School in 1964. He has been married to Jane for 28 years and has two kids and two grandkids. Johnson’s favorite hobby is collecting antique cars, which he has done for the last 30 years. His collection ranges from a 1934 Oldsmobile to a 1972 El Camino.

“Director Johnson brings a familiarity to the region, along with his experience in construction and general business knowledge,” Doug Nunneley, General Manager of OMWC said. “He will be a great addition to the board.”



Q&A on New State Water Regulations

Q: What are the regulations mandated by the state?

A: New regulations prohibit outdoor watering while it’s raining or within two days of rain and limit customers to three irrigation days per week. These rules add on to the existing list that restricts: individuals from spraying down sidewalks and driveways, watering lawns to the point of causing runoff and washing vehicles with a hose lacking a shutoff nozzle. The mandatory restrictions will also:

- Replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments.
- Direct the creation of a temporary, statewide consumer rebate program to replace old appliances with more water and energy efficient models.
- Require campuses, golf courses, cemeteries and other large landscapes to make significant cuts in water use.
- Prohibit new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless water-efficient drip irrigation systems are used, and ban watering of ornamental grass on public street medians.

Q: How often can I water my lawn?

A: Each Bakersfield water purveyor will impose a restriction of three watering days per week. Odd numbered houses will have the opportunity to water on

Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday and even numbered houses will water on Wednesday-Friday-Sunday. We encourage automatic sprinklers to be set between midnight and 8 a.m. and manual watering to take place in the late evening after 6 p.m. and early morning before 10 a.m. to avoid the evaporation of water.

Q: Why did Gov. Jerry Brown call for these regulations?

A: California is now in its fourth year of an on-going drought and there appears to be no end in sight. Last year, in response to a lack of precipitation and snowpack, Gov. Brown declared a drought state of emergency, setting in place the first batch of water restrictions in California. These water restrictions came with a voluntary call from Gov. Brown to reduce statewide water usage by 20 percent. The call received different levels of success throughout the state, but a further shortage of rain led Gov. Brown to call for a mandatory statewide reduction of water consumption by 25 percent. To reach the statewide goal, some communities are required to reduce usage by more than 25 percent. Bakersfield is one of those cities. Communities with residents who use more than 165 gallons of water per day are required to cut back by 35 percent.

Q: What will happen if individuals overuse water?

A: Our water patrol will be on duty to ensure all customers are aware of the regulations and abide by the State imposed regulations. Oildale Mutual will give one warning for water wasting, followed by a \$25 fine, then a \$50 fine and finally, the installation of a meter upon the fourth violation. After that the Company may discontinue water service.

Please call our office if you have any questions on the State's water regulations.

661.399.5516



The Company needs your help to meet State-mandated drought restrictions and potential fines. We recommend NO planting of winter rye grass this year. Please talk to your gardener and tell them NO winter rye. Also, be advised that the Company may be required to further restrict watering days this winter. Thank you for your diligent conservation of our most precious resource - water.

Annual Shareholders Meeting

If you have not sent in your proxy card for the annual stockholders meeting we encourage you to do so no later than September 27th. The Company needs a minimum of 20 percent of all shares represented at the meeting in order to have a quorum. Failure to have a quorum will postpone the meeting until a quorum is obtained. If you misplaced your card, you can stop by the office and sign one there.

Daylight hours are shorter & the temperature is cooler

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**Oildale
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Water
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