

YREKA CITY NEWSLETTER

Water Conservation

Volume 9, Issue 1 February 2016
www.ci.yreka.ca.us



Important Numbers

City Hall/
Utility Billing
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department
(530) 841-2383

Police Department
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

John Mercier
Mayor

Bryan Foster
Mayor Pro Tempore

Deborah Baird
Councilmember

David Simmen
Councilmember

Joan Smith Freeman
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Rhetta Hogan
City Treasurer

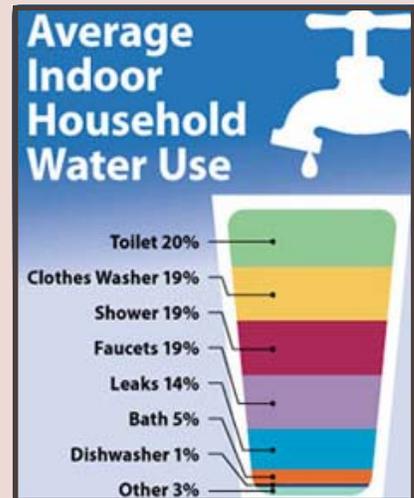
It may seem strange to be talking drought after the steady rains of December and January, but the City of Yreka would like to update its citizens about the water conservation order imposed upon us by the State. In May 2015, as a response to the continuing drought, the State issued mandatory water conservation levels to every city over a certain size. Yreka's level is 32% compared to water use in 2013. However, from June to November 2015, Yreka only achieved an average level of 14% conservation. This figure does not include water taken out of the area such as the non-potable filling station on Greenhorn Road. As a result of our lagging conservation, the State issued a conservation order to Yreka containing mandatory actions that will help us save water and avoid fines from the State.

Some of the actions will be behind-the-scenes like:

- increased leak detection,
- water line replacement,
- water-rate analysis,
- efficient irrigation equipment and watering schedules; both the schools and city parks have already significantly reduced their water use with these devices.

Other actions that more directly impact our customers are:

- one-day-a-week mandatory watering schedule until the end of March when watering days for the summer will be discussed,
- increased conservation information with your utility bill and on the City website,
- personalized consulting outreach and assistance to top water users to assist them in their efforts to save water,
- identifying, reporting, and possible fines to water-wasters, reminding them to eliminate all run-off from their property.



What can you do to save water, save money, and help Yreka avoid fines from the State?

- If you live in an older home and the toilet has never been replaced, take advantage of the toilet replacement program (see below).
- Consider turf removal and replacement with low water use plants and efficient irrigation (rebates available).
- Upgrade your irrigation system to more efficient rotating nozzles or drip.
- If you plan on purchasing a new washing machine or evaporative cooler, check out the rebates available from Pacific Power. They also have a number of energy rebates for commercial, industrial, and multi-family customers.

Please contact the Water Efficiency Coordinator by calling (530) 841-2370 or by emailing the City at watereff@ci.yreka.ca.us for more information.



State of California Drought Response Offers Residents a "Save Our Water" Rebates Program

Act quickly to take advantage of the State's SAVE OUR WATER program that is now offering grants for residential turf removal and toilet replacement beginning August 12, 2015. The State-administered grant provides a rebate of \$2.00 per square foot of turf converted to low-water use landscapes in single-family homes up to a maximum of \$2,000. The program also provides a rebate of up to \$100 to replace one toilet per household using more than 1.6 gallons per flush with a qualifying high-efficiency toilet using 1.28 gallons per flush or less. The rebates are funded by \$30 million from Prop 1 Water Bond 2014 and are expected to be used rapidly. To learn more or to apply, visit www.saveourwaterrebates.com or call (844) 642-7410. Apply soon while funds are still available!

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REMINDER: The \$10 dog license penalty will be applied to delinquent accounts on March 2nd. Citations will be issued for unlicensed dogs starting May 1st.

Yreka Area Fire Safe Council

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

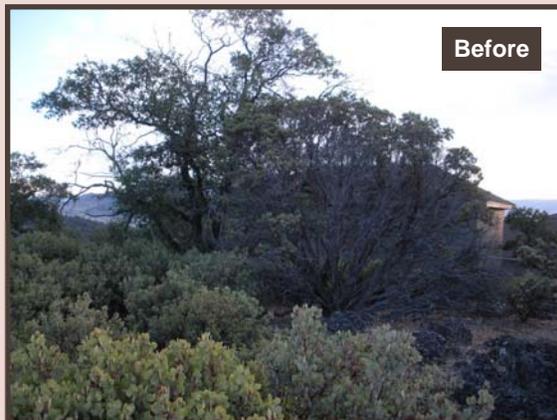


In 2006, property owners interested in protecting their properties and the surrounding area from wildfire formed the Yreka Area Fire Safe Council (YAFSC). In cooperation with private, public and commercial owners in the area, the YAFSC is dedicated to protecting property and resources from the devastating effects of catastrophic wildfire. Seeing how the devastating Boles Fire ripped through Weed in 2014, it is increasingly apparent that our community needs to step up planning efforts as the same thing could happen in Yreka and the surrounding areas.

The YAFSC area is from Hawkinsville on the north to Cram Gulch on the south, to the top of Humbug on the west and Phillippe Lane on the east. The YAFSC has a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is making updates to the Plan in conjunction with local fire safety groups and community residents.

The YAFSC wants the plan to be more strategic and needs input from you, as community residents, on what you see as a threat to your area. The YAFSC has completed many acres of fuels reduction around Yreka, but there is a need to treat more. This effort will be best accomplished with more local and agency engagement. We also encourage residents and volunteers to get involved in activities like creating defensible space for elderly or disabled community members. A grant allowed creation of defensible space for 23 homes in the Yreka area.

The YAFSC meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm-8pm in the Klamath National Forest building located at 1711 South Main Street in Yreka. Residents are encouraged to come and find out what is happening. To find out how you can help, contact Peg at (530) 598-8355 or George at (530) 598-8887.



Weed Abatement Program



The primary goal of the City of Yreka's Weed Abatement Program is to reduce the fire hazard from dry vegetation that becomes extremely flammable in dry and hot weather. Many devastating fires can be prevented with proper weed abatement.

Yreka has adopted a Public Nuisances Designated Ordinance 9.47.020.A Fire Hazards which can be seen on our website at www.ci.yreka.ca.us/codes-1 (City of Yreka Municipal Code - Title 9).

City staff will begin conducting weed abatement inspections on or around June 1, 2016, to ensure all dry vegetation, weeds, rubbish and other fire hazards have been removed from properties located in the City of Yreka in accordance with the City's Municipal Code. Please help the City by reducing potential fire hazards.