



# Central Valley Water Awareness Committee

4888 E. Jensen Avenue, Fresno, California 93725

Telephone (559) 266-0767 Fax (559) 266-3918

[www.centralvalleywater.org](http://www.centralvalleywater.org)

April 25, 2014

**CONTACT:** Nora Laikam, (559) 621-5305

Cristel Tufenkjian, (559) 237-5567, ext.118

## Members

Association of Metropolitan  
Water Agencies  
621-5300

Bakman Water Company  
255-0324

California Department of  
Transportation  
488-4045

Center for Irrigation  
Technology, Fresno State  
278-2066

City of Clovis Public  
Utilities  
324-2607

City of Fresno Water  
Division & Wastewater  
Management  
621-5305

Fresno County Farm  
Bureau  
237-0263

Fresno Irrigation District  
233-7161

Fresno Metropolitan Flood  
Control District  
456-3292

Kings River Conservation  
District  
237-5567

Kings River Water  
Association  
266-0767

Malaga County Water  
District  
485-7353

## Local water agencies plan activities to recognize May as Water Awareness Month

*Central Valley Water Awareness Committee wants residents to "Use Water Wisely"*

FRESNO -- For 27 years, the month of May has been recognized as Water Awareness Month in California. In 1987, local water agencies joined other water districts and agencies throughout the state to begin an awareness and educational campaign to help Californians understand the importance and value of this limited resource. This year -- more than ever -- that mission is just as important!

This May, Central Valley Water Awareness Committee (CVWAC) will participate in activities and educational programs to help Fresno and San Joaquin Valley residents better understand where their water comes from, the seriousness of the present drought, how water is used and its importance to the overall economic and social well-being of the Valley. The local agencies will join with water agencies throughout California to conduct outreach and public education events to deliver the message: "Use Water Wisely."

Some of these activities include partnering with Fresno State's Friends of The Madden Library to co-host a program on drought-tolerant landscaping on May 2; providing free drought-tolerant plants to visitors at the Water-Wise Plant Event on May 3 at Fresno State; Water Awareness Month proclamations by Fresno County Board of Supervisors on April 29 and Clovis City Council on May 5; the Water Technology Conference on May 8 in Clovis; water educational posters on display in all 34 Fresno County Library branches; sponsorship of the new Mediterranean Garden at the Clovis Botanical Garden Demonstration in Clovis; recognition of the winners of a student water conservation poster contest; and sponsorship of water-related science projects for middle and high school students at the Central California Science and Engineering Fair held in March. The details:

**Friday, May 2: "Smart Gardens: How to be Water Wise in Times of Drought"**, a program on drought-tolerant landscaping with John Valentino and Susan Stiltz; 6 p.m., Henry Madden Library, Fresno State Campus. Details: Sharon Ramirez, (559) 278-5790.

**Saturday, May 3: Water-Wise Plant Event**, a free give-and-take of drought-resistant plants; 8 a.m. to noon, Fresno State Horticulture Greenhouse, 3150 E. Barstow Ave. Details: (559) 621-5480.

**Thursday, May 8, Water Technology Conference**, International Center for Water Technology's conference designed to learn from researchers, industry and water managers about the San Joaquin Valley's water resources, the ongoing drought, and what to expect in the future. 8 a.m., Clovis Veterans Memorial District, 808 4th St., Clovis. Details: Laura Ramos, (559) 278-2066.

**Water Awareness posters in Fresno County libraries:** help to support the drought and water conservation messages the public is hearing from many sources, and by identifying all of the CVWAC organizations tells them they aren't alone in the responsibility of looking after our community's most important resource.

**Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners** Teresa Feria, Lone Star School (Sanger Unified), was recognized on April 7 and Anjanette Gonzales, Saroyan School (Fresno Unified), was recognized on March 28 by CVWAC Committee members. Teresa and Anjanette entered the poster contest during the June 2013 Kids Water Camp event organized by the City of Fresno. The CVWAC donated books to schools' libraries in their names.

#### **Central California Science and Engineering Fair Water Project Winners:**

Members of the CVWAC selected three science fair projects for special recognition at the Science and Engineering Fair on March 17:

1.) *Junior Division (Grade 7):* Project Title: "Effects of Water Purification Methods on Bacterial Levels in Lake Water"; Julie Nguyen, Alta Sierra Middle School, Clovis; Description: The student project determines which of the following: bleach, iodine, or heat (boiling water), is the best way to eliminate bacteria in contaminated lake water. The student concludes that boiling water was the most effective water purification method in decreasing bacteria levels.

2.) *Senior Division (High School):* Project Title: "Benthic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment of Fresno Rivers"; Kaitlyn Russo, Clovis High School; Description: The purpose of this project is to determine the levels of water pollution in rivers as seen through a population study of aquatic insects. The rivers studied for this project are the American River, the Kings River, and the San Joaquin River. The student concludes that the San Joaquin River is the most contaminated, followed by the American River, and the least contaminated is the Kings River.

3.) *Senior Division (also a 2013 CVWAC Award Recipient):* Project Title: "Electronic Tongue: Tastes of Toxic Metal Ions in Water"; Seung Hye (Beatrice) Choi, University High School, Fresno; Description: This student project uses an analytical instrument ("electric tongue") to detect toxic metal ions in water using four different types of gold nanoparticles.

CVWAC members are public agencies and private companies and associations that work to provide safe and reliable water for their customers, focusing on water conservation, groundwater replenishment, water delivery, pollution prevention, education and advocacy.

Members include: Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; Bakman Water Company; California Department of Transportation; City of Clovis Public Utilities; City of Fresno Water Division & Wastewater Management; Fresno County Farm Bureau; Fresno Irrigation District; Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District; Center for Irrigation Technology, Fresno State; Kings River Conservation District; Kings River Water Association; and Malaga County Water District.

Water Awareness Month originated as a joint effort of California Department of Water Resources and the Association of California Water Agencies during California's 1987-1992 drought to educate the public about water use efficiency and conservation. Today, the statewide agencies sponsor the "Save Our Water" campaign, a continuing effort to promote water use efficiency. Created by a 2009 gubernatorial drought declaration, the program educates Californians about easy ways to conserve water, indoors and outdoors. Conservation tips can be found on the campaigns Website at [www.saveourh20.org](http://www.saveourh20.org).

For more information about CVWAC activities visit its Website at:  
[www.centralvalleywater.org/water\\_awareness](http://www.centralvalleywater.org/water_awareness).

###

## **Your Water: Be aware. Be responsible. Be informed. Be involved.**

*On average, over 10,000 gallons of water is wasted per household and 1 trillion gallons nationwide due to running toilets, dripping faucets and other minor household leaks.*

### **Saving a drip or saving a gallon... this year, it matters!**

- Repair leaking hose bibs ; **Saves 15-20 gallons per day per leak**
- Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees and flowers to get water to the roots more efficiently; **Saves 20-25 gallons per day**
- Upgrade to a “smart irrigation controller” that automatically adjusts watering times to the particular climate; **Saves 40 gallons per day**
- Turn off water when brushing teeth; **Saves 2 gallons per minute**
- Take shorter showers; **Saves 2.5 gallons per minute**
- Fix leaky toilets; **Saves 30-500 gallons per day per toilet**
- Run the dishwasher only when full; **Saves 2-4.5 gallons per load**
- Turn off water when washing dishes; **Saves 2.5 gallons per minute**
- Fix leaky faucets; **Saves 15-20 gallons per day per leak**
- Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen/bathroom faucets; **Saves 4.7 gallons per day**

### **Saving water by the yard!**

*Landscape irrigation represents up to 70 percent of water used in a typical household. Much of it is wasted by inefficient irrigation and water-guzzling plants.*

- Plant an appropriate size garden for your household.
- Plant shorter season crops and drought resistant varieties.
- Apply a 3” to 4” layer of mulch.
- Compost adds nutrients to soil and can produce higher yields.
- Remove weeds, which compete for water resources.
- Replace nonessential turf with ground covers, mulches, decks and walkways.
- Adjust irrigation schedule frequently - to reflect seasonal changes.

- Water at night, ideally between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., this reduces evaporation and wind will not be strong enough to interfere with sprinkler patterns.
- Mow lawns higher during very warm weather:
  - Helps reduce growth rate
  - Protects lawn from sunburn
  - Promotes deeper root growth
  - Shades soil, reduces weeds
- Install a water efficient drip irrigation system.
- Gradually reduce water use by 10 percent increments over the course of a few weeks - giving lawns, trees and plants time to adjust.
- Check for and repair leaks.
- Adjust sprinkler heads to maximize coverage, avoid watering sidewalks and patios.
- Install a drip irrigation system, grouping plants with similar water needs together on one drip irrigation line.

#### **How much do you know about California's water supply?**

- Precipitation averages about 193 million acre-feet per year.
- In a normal precipitation year, about half of the state's available surface water – 35 million acre-feet – is collected in local, state and federal reservoirs.
- California is home to more than 1,300 reservoirs.
- About two-thirds of annual runoff evaporates, percolates into the ground or is absorbed by plants, leaving about 71 million acre-feet in average annual runoff.
- An acre-foot of water equals about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land 1 foot deep. To put it another way, an acre foot of water is enough to flood a football field 1-foot deep (a football field is roughly an acre in size).
- In California, an acre foot, or 326,000 gallons, can meet the annual indoor and outdoor needs of one- to-two households.
- Irrigation began in the San Joaquin Valley in the 1870s.
- California produces 99 percent of the artichokes, 44 percent of asparagus, 97 percent of fresh plums, two-thirds of carrots, half of bell peppers, 90 percent of leaf lettuce, and 94 percent of the broccoli – and the majority of many other fruits and vegetables.

- San Joaquin Valley farmers grow more than 400 food, fiber and nursery crops, 14 of which are grown exclusively in California.
- Between 1967 and 2007, California farmers have almost doubled their production on 14 percent less water. An investment of almost \$3 billion upgrading irrigation systems to high efficiency drip and micro sprinklers help keep California farms competitive in a world market.

***For more information:***

Central Valley Water Awareness Committee co-chairs:

Pam Lassley  
Kings River Water  
Association  
CVWAC Co-Chair  
(559) 266-0767

Cristel Tufenkjian  
Kings River Conservation  
District  
CVWAC Co-Chair  
(559) 237-5567, ext. 118

Nora Laikam  
City of Fresno Water  
Division  
CVWAC Co-chair  
(559) 621-5305

Central Valley Water Awareness Committee  
[www.centralvalleywater.org/water\\_awareness](http://www.centralvalleywater.org/water_awareness)

Save Our Water, California Campaign  
<http://www.saveourh2o.org/>

University of California, The California Garden  
[http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Drought\\_/Drought\\_Gardening\\_Tips/](http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Drought_/Drought_Gardening_Tips/)

City of Fresno Water Conservation  
<http://www.fresno.gov/Government/DepartmentDirectory/PublicUtilities/Watermanagement/Conservation/20Gallon.htm>  
[www.fresno.watersavingplants.com/](http://www.fresno.watersavingplants.com/)

California Urban Water Conservation Council  
<http://h2ouse.org;>

*Sources: City of Fresno Water Division, Water Education Foundation; California Farm Water Coalition*