



Connections

Our Water Supply Challenge

Nearly all of Santa Rosa's drinking water is supplied by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and is collected from six specialized wells located along the Russian River at Wohler and Mirabel roads and, to a minor degree, three ground-water wells in the Santa Rosa Plain. Additionally, Santa Rosa operates two groundwater wells that provide approximately ten percent of our water supply and maintains three wells in "standby" status to provide supplemental water in case of emergencies or natural disaster.

In addition to Santa Rosa, the SCWA system supplies water to the cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Sonoma, the Town of Windsor, the Valley of the Moon, North Marin and Marin Municipal Water Districts, as well as several small water companies and public agencies.

Two main reservoirs in the Russian River watershed — Lake Mendocino (located on the East Fork of the Russian River) and Lake Sonoma (located on Dry Creek) — provide the majority of water for municipal and industrial use.

The Russian River and its major tributaries are home to three species of fish that are threatened or endangered: steelhead, coho salmon, and Chinook salmon.

There are many reasons for the decline of these species. Flood control and water supply projects along the Russian River and in Dry Creek are among these reasons and are the sole focus of a National Marine Fisheries



Water intakes on the Russian River near Wohler Bridge.

Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (see page 4), which addresses the following questions:

Do the flood control projects operated by the Corps of Engineers, and the water supply and flood control projects operated

by SCWA, contribute to the decline of the threatened fish species?

If the answer is yes, how can these projects or operations be changed to enable the survival and recovery of the species?

After more than ten years of studies, the Biological Opinion determined that some aspects of flood control and water supply operations will have substantial adverse effects on both steelhead and coho, but not Chinook. This means that SCWA and the Corps must change some of their methods of operation.

One area of particular concern is the finding in the Biological Opinion that fast-moving water makes it difficult for young fish to thrive. The means by which water from Lake Sonoma gets to

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Water Smart Expo — It's that time of year again!

The City of Santa Rosa's Water Conservation team is hosting their annual **Water Smart Expo on Wednesday, May 26, from 5:00 to 8:30 PM** at the Downtown Market at the intersection of Fourth and E Streets in Santa Rosa.

This is a great way to kick off the 2010 Downtown Market and marks a grand ending for May, which is Water Awareness Month. The Expo provides an opportunity for you to talk to employees from both City and County agencies, meet with representatives from local businesses, and enter a raffle to win awesome prizes. Bring the kids — there will be plenty of fun activities to keep them busy, too.

The Water Conservation team will be available to answer questions and offer suggestions about:

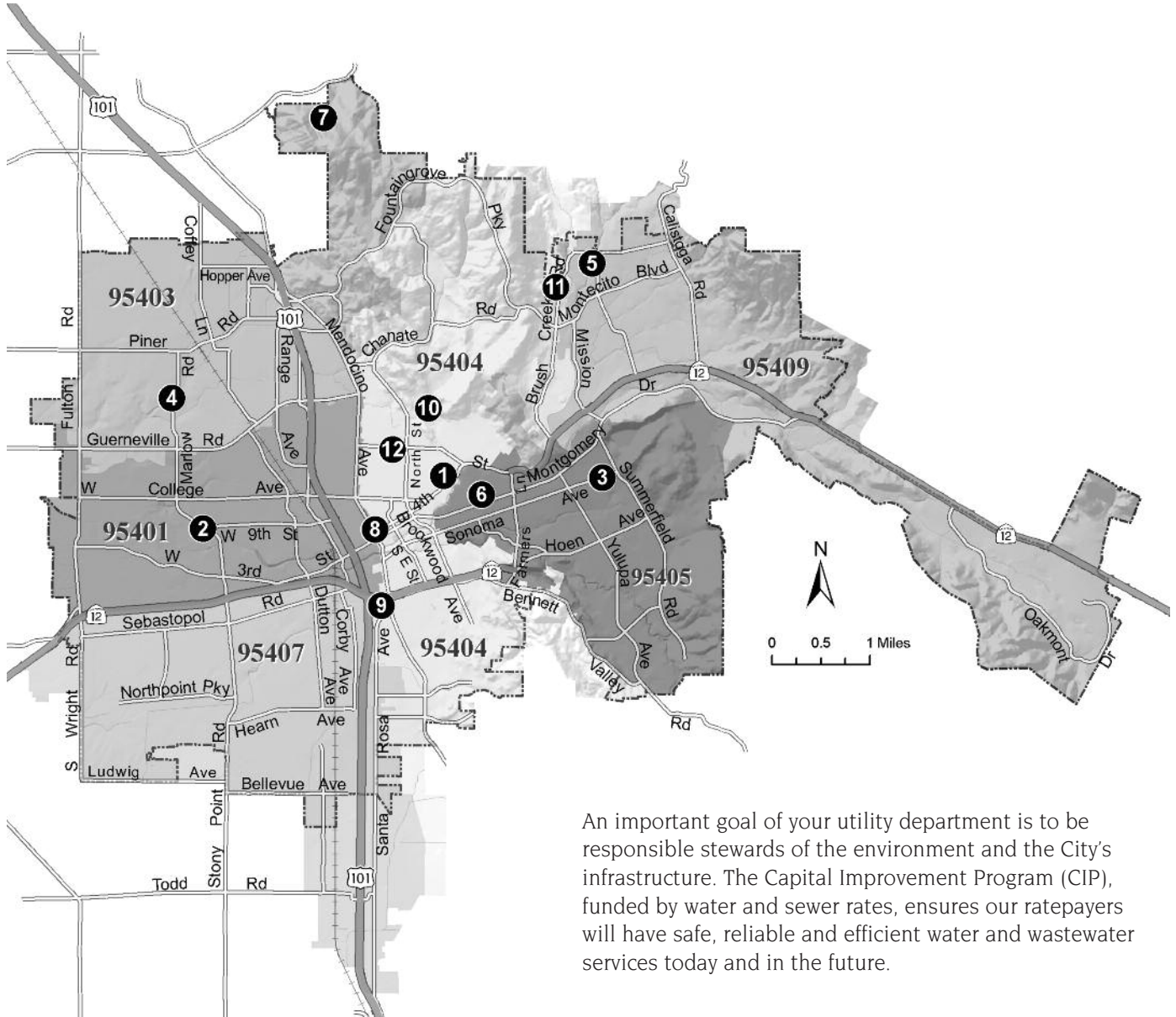
- How to reduce your water bill.
- How to make your irrigation system more efficient.
- Which beautiful, low-water-use plants thrive in this climate.
- How much water you can save by switching to a high-efficiency toilet.
- How much water you can save by using a front-loading washing machine.
- What rebates are available.

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Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects in Construction — April through June 2010



An important goal of your utility department is to be responsible stewards of the environment and the City's infrastructure. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP), funded by water and sewer rates, ensures our ratepayers will have safe, reliable and efficient water and wastewater services today and in the future.

This map shows capital improvement projects that will be under construction during the second quarter of 2010.

The map reflects projects that are estimated to occur during the period April through June 2010 and, due to varying factors, are subject to change without notice. The data represented has been generated from Utilities Asset Management.

#	Project Description
1	Spring Street Sewer and Water Improvements
2	Recycled Water Pilot Project
3	Rincon Valley Trunk Sewer
4	Marlow Siphon
5	Middle Rincon Road - Montecito Blvd to Badger Rd
6	Montgomery Drive Sewer and Water – Talbot Ave to Farmers Ln
7	Lift Station Upgrade- Skyfarm "A"
8	3rd Street Sewer and Water Improvements
9	Earle Street Sewer Main Replacement Project
10	Poppy to Terrace Sewer Main Replacement
11	Sewer Pipe Lining – Greenbriar Way
12	King Street Phase I

Solar Energy and Efficiency Fair

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, June 19, 2010

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Finley Community Center and Park

Solar Sonoma County in partnership with PG&E, City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department and Department of Energy's Solar American Cities Program will be presenting a community **Solar Energy & Efficiency Fair** featuring the Pathway to Clean Energy — a step-by-step interactive experience about how to “First Reduce, Then Produce” — as well as speakers, workshops, solar and energy efficiency professionals, green jobs information, food and beverages, live local entertainment on a solar-powered stage, and much more!

Want to use less energy? Lower your utility bills? Reduce your footprint? Make the move to clean energy! It is more affordable and easier to do than ever. You'll learn about:

- No-money-down financing through the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program!
- California's solar incentives including the new rebate for solar water heating!
- PG&E's new three-year energy efficiency rebate and incentive program!



If you are interested in energy efficiency and clean renewable energy (homeowners, business owners, green job seekers, families, green students) come to the Solar Energy & Efficiency Fair to learn more!

This event is FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

For sponsorship, vendor, or exhibitor information, please contact Solar Sonoma County at 707.284.9799 or michelle@solarsonomacounty.org. For new event details, please visit: SolarSonomaCounty.org.

Did You Know?

The Utilities Department has customer service personnel available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to customers requesting that their water be shut off at the water meter so the customer can make repairs to their private system.

Water meters are the property of the Utilities Department and only City personnel are allowed to operate city water valves, including meter shutoff valves, per Santa Rosa City Code.

To assist you when you need to make repairs to your private system, the Utilities Department offers this **water meter shutoff service free of charge**. When you have completed your work, contact the Utilities Department and

City personnel will return to your home or business to restart your water service.

This free service does not extend to customers who are having their water service restored after being disconnected for non-payment. For information regarding applicable turn-on fees for non-payment, please call Utility Billing at 543-3150.

To request that your water be turned off during regular business hours, please call the Utilities Department at 543-4200, Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM and every other Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. For water shutoff services at all other times, including holidays, please call 543-3805.

“Water Smart Expo” continued from page 1...

In addition to learning what you can do to become more water efficient, you'll learn about a comprehensive suite of rebate programs to assist you in implementing the changes. For example, the *Green Exchange Rebate* is a program that pays you to remove your lawn and/or upgrade your irrigation system. The high-efficiency toilet (HET) program provides up to \$150 per qualifying toilet to upgrade to a more efficient version. There are also rebates available for front-loading washing machines, rainwater harvesting systems, graywater systems and many more.

Staff from the City's Storm Water and Creeks team will be available to discuss how to protect local creeks and will share information about upcoming restoration projects and volunteer events. You can also talk with the Environmental Projects team about City efforts to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and how you can help.

The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) will be there to answer questions, as will several local business owners. You'll have access to qualified professional landscaping and plumbing advice, information about new technology in appliances and the most efficient irrigation products, and can learn about mosquito abatement and other water-related topics.

Interested in how rainwater harvesting systems or high-efficiency toilets work? The Expo offers several product demonstrations.

The kids can enjoy games, an art table, and, of course, face painting ... an all time favorite!

There also will be a raffle for City of Santa Rosa Utilities customers. You'll have a chance to win a front-loading clothes washing machine, a high-efficiency toilet and more.

Don't miss this fun and informative event. For more information about the Water Smart Expo, contact Water Conservation staff at (707) 543-3985 or visit our web site: srcity.org/wc.

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the Russian River is through the fourteen-mile-long Dry Creek. The Biological Opinion requires that, over a 15-year period, the SCWA restore fish habitat and make changes in the configuration of Dry Creek to create slow-moving pools that will reduce water flow rates along six miles of the creek.

To protect the fish in the meantime, the amount of water that can be released from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek has been reduced during the months of June through October. This creates a situation in which, even when there is ample water in the various reservoirs, only a limited amount can

be transmitted to the Russian River and ultimately to the over 600,000 people to which SCWA provides drinking water. The limitation in the amount of water that is available during summer months is expected to continue over the next 8 to 10 years, until the fish habitat restoration has been completed.

This is one of the reasons the City of Santa Rosa and SCWA urge all citizens to continue their laudable conservation efforts by making it a habit to use every drop of water as efficiently as possible, throughout the year, every year.

Sources: Sonoma County Water Agency and City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department

Your Utilities Department at Work for You

Laguna Subregional Compost Facility



The City of Santa Rosa's Laguna Treatment Plant (LTP) produces approximately 3,900 to 4,200 dry metric tons of highly treated

biosolids each year. Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic matter resulting from the treatment of wastewater. Once these biosolids have been treated they can be beneficially reused as a soil amendment. As part of our commitment to environmental stewardship, the City of Santa Rosa has been beneficially reusing the biosolids through agricultural land application since 1992.

In 1996, the City started a compost facility where biosolids are mixed with bulking agents and turned into rich, marketable compost. The process is clean, efficient and meets or exceeds all standards set by public health and environmental agencies.

Drew Ramsay is a Skilled Maintenance Worker employed at the compost facility. In 1996, he began working with the City on the tree crew in the Parks Department and transferred to the compost facility in the summer of 2008. Drew's experience with heavy equipment combined with his previous employ-

ment in the tree care industry, which included a composting operation, makes him an ideal fit for his current job. Drew also has a background in welding/fabrication, which has allowed him to work on some special projects at the facility.

Most days, Drew operates heavy equipment to mix biosolids with bulking agents — such as grape pomace, yard waste, sawdust and wood chips — and load the mix into bins where it undergoes the compost generating process. He also screens the compost to ensure it is the proper size for use on lawns or in gardens and makes compost deliveries to various customers. During the summer months, he applies biosolids to agricultural land as a soil amendment for fodder crops.

To be successful in this position, Drew recommends that a person be able to work safely and efficiently with heavy equipment, possess and maintain a Class A driver's license, have basic math skills and be prepared to work in any type of weather.

When asked what he likes most about his job, Drew says he works “with a nice group of people and that makes coming to work pleasant.”

For more information regarding the City of Santa Rosa biosolids and compost programs, please call the Laguna Treatment Plant at 543-3442 or visit www.srcity.org/bms.

What is a “biological opinion”?

A biological opinion is a determination made by a federal agency — in this case the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) — to help restore threatened or endangered species. Biological opinions are prepared when federal government agencies consult with other federal agencies in a process spelled out in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

In essence, biological opinions summarize the studies done during the Section 7 consultation process, analyze the impact of a specific project, and determine whether the project is likely to harm the survival and the recovery of the species. If the biological opinion finds that the species are likely to be harmed by the project, it includes “reasonable and prudent alternatives” that must be implemented.

In this case the project is the operation of the Warm Springs and Coyote Valley Dams as well as other facilities within the Russian River watershed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District.

From www.scwa.ca.gov/rrifr

Web Resources

Visit these web sites to learn more about issues mentioned in this Update.

Biological Opinion Information:

www.scwa.ca.gov/rrifr

Biosolids & Compost Programs:

www.SRCity.org/bms

Water Conservation:

www.SRCity.org/wc

Turf Time:

www.SRCity.org/turftime

Water Efficiency Calculator:

www.SRCity.org/watercalculator

Twitter:

twitter.com/SantaRosaWater