



Water Conservation Information

Solvang utility customers,

As you are aware the City of Solvang is experience extreme drought conditions, like the entire state of California, and the near future seems bleak as well. The City Water Division is doing its best to manage our valuable water infrastructure and allotments to allow the health and safety needs of our community to be met. Below is some information and updates.

- 1. What are the water consumption demands, current and past, for the City of Solvang? Below is a chart reflecting the 5 previous five years consumption amounts, 2022 is anticipated to remain on trend at approximately 1200 Ac-ft. (One ac-ft equals 325,851 gallons)**

Year	Consumption Ac-ft
2017	1,107
2018	1,159
2019	1,114
2020	1,223
2021	1,242
Average	1,187

- 2. Water resources available to meet the city consumption demands.**

The City currently relies on two river wells, four upland wells, State Water allotment, and two turnouts from ID#1. The City has been limited in its operation of the two river wells from March through September of this year, and this will likely continue until the City can obtain permits to explore two new river wells. The upland wells are a reliable source but do not provide adequate supply; the City is continually exploring options for reliable sources in the upland's aquifer. The State Department of Water Resources is predicting a 0% allocation next year. The costs to purchase water from ID#1 comes with a high price tag. Staff uses this source as a last option.

- 3. Outdoor irrigation usage information.**

60-75% of water usage on the average water bill is used for outdoor irrigation. The smallest efforts can realize the biggest savings in the pocketbook and in the water resources. Adjusting your lawn watering schedules, repair and adjustment to water sprinklers, planting of water wise and drought tolerant plants, adjust the time of day that you water, can all provide substantial savings.

- 4. Indoor irrigation usage information.**

Based on information from the state, the average Californian uses approximately 196 gallons per day. While most of the water consumption is used on outdoor irrigation there are still ways to cut back on indoor usage. Fixing toilet and indoor leaks in a timely manner, taking shorter showers, five minutes recommended, recycling indoor water, and using it for outdoor irrigation.

5. Are you aware the City offers a landscape rebate program?

The City of Solvang does offer a landscape rebate program. The city will provide a rebate for turf replacement, installation of rain barrels, removal of grass, planting of drought tolerant plants and shrubs. Some of the objectives of the program are:

- a. Provide incentive to modify landscape to use less water and use water more efficiently.
- b. Educate residents and customers on how to conserve water.
- c. Help save customers money on their water bill.
- d. Helps conserve water for the City of Solvang and the State of California.
- e. Benefit endangered species such as the Southern Steelhead Trout.

For more information such as eligibility, amounts of the rebate and details please visit the following link:
<https://www.cityofsolvang.com/documentcenter/view/2535>