

La Mesa Water Cooperative

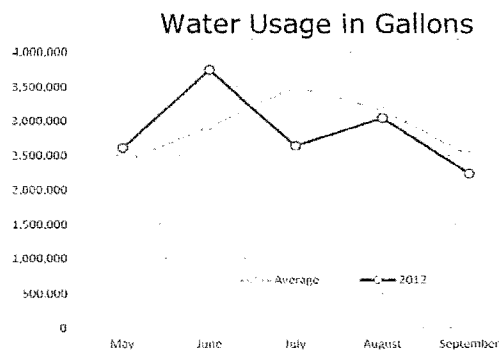
WaterGram - November 2012

Update on Water Emergency

The Board wants to thank all of you who conserved water during our summer water emergency. This made an important difference. Unfortunately, in an emergency we are still unable to reach over half of our members by e-mail or text. This meant that a minority of our members had to unfairly bear the entire burden of conservation during our water emergency. If you are not on our emergency contact list, a sign-up form is included in this mailing. Please complete it and return it with your payment. It is very important that we have a way to notify our members of emergency situations.

The Board has a multi-tiered back-up plan to ensure an adequate supply of water. This includes a purchase agreement with a neighboring coop and the activation of an out-of-service well. Because we had alternative water sources available, there was never an immediate danger of running out of water. However, implementation of our back-up plan would have been costly and inconvenient. We all owe thanks to the members who responded to our request for conservation.

Here is our average water usage during the summer months (dashed line) and our usage this year (solid line).



Note that our June usage was much higher than usual, but our July usage was almost a million gallons below average. This represents a substantial level of conservation. There was less conservation in August, but our usage was still below average in an unusually warm year.

Update on Replacement Well

Although we still expect to have our replacement well in service by late spring, we are approximately 3 months behind schedule. This is because of unforeseen drilling delays, delays in developing the well, and initial tests suggesting the possibility of high arsenic levels. The latter was of particular concern because we carefully located our replacement well next to a well which has always had low arsenic levels. Fortunately, subsequent testing revealed that the initial tests were too high. Present test results indicate that the well meets all standards for drinking water. Over the winter we will install and test the necessary pumping and distribution equipment.

Preparing for Cold Weather

Now that the irrigation season has effectively ended, please make certain that you turn off your automatic irrigation system. It is also time to winterize your swamp cooler. It is very important to disconnect all garden hoses. If the hose is left connected it may freeze and damage your outside faucets. It is also wise to install insulators on your exterior faucets.

If you will be out of town for more than a few days during the winter, please make certain that someone is checking your home on a regular basis. Most of our most wasteful and costly plumbing problems and water losses occur when homeowners are out of town.

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