

## Water Conservation FAQ

- **What is TID doing to help the City of Turlock achieve its water conservation goals?**

TID doesn't provide water to the City of Turlock for municipal uses but, we're doing our part to conserve and help the city and region achieve the water conservation goals set by the state.

For example; TID has stopped watering the grass areas around our Canal Drive and Broadway offices and, once the purchase of the Palm Street Operations Complex is complete, TID will re-landscape the entire complex with drought tolerant landscaping. TID is also installing a demonstration landscape in front of the Canal Drive Office and will include information on the plants and techniques used so residents can install similar landscaping at their home or business.

- **Why is agriculture not being cut back like urban water users are?**

Agriculture has been at the forefront of water restrictions for the past 4 years. The last wet rainy season was in 2011 and since then, growers have seen their available water shrink with the supply. Growers in the TID have been reduced by 62% in 2015. This is on top of a 58% reduction in availability in 2014. Reductions also occurred in 2013 and 2012.

- **What has TID done to be more efficient?**

TID has taken a number of steps to improve efficiency and maximize the amount of water available for our growers. The following is a partial list -

- TID is operating Turlock Lake around 50% of capacity in order to reduce seepage and evaporation.
- TID is piloting several water efficiency projects including:
  - A regulating reservoir in Hilmar to capture water that would otherwise be spilled into the river unused.
  - A system of automated gates on the Lateral 8 canal which are used to automatically control the amount of water in the canal, minimizing spillage and increasing efficiency.
- TID is in the second year of a multi-year project to install automated gates and meters at the point of delivery to the growers throughout the District. This will significantly increase its ability to measure the water delivered.
- This year, TID more than doubled irrigation water rates which will encourage conservation.

- **What are the penalties for the unauthorized use of water?**

TID's Board of Directors adopted the following penalties for unauthorized use of water as part of the 2015 Irrigation Season Rules.

- 1st offense - \$1,000 fine and water taken will be billed at the highest tier amount.
- 2nd offense- Potential loss of water for the remainder of the season.

- **How do I report unauthorized water use?**

TID has a tip line to report water theft and tipsters can remain anonymous (209) 883-8359 (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

- **I've heard Agriculture uses 80% of the water in California. Is that true?**

There is some confusion about the amount of water used by agriculture in California and it comes in part from the way the Department of Water Resources (DWR) previously reported usage numbers.

Beginning in 2007, the DWR began including urban, agricultural *and* environmental mandates in their water accounting system. Under this new system, agriculture accounts for 40.9% of water used and urban residents 8.9%. According to the California Department of Water Resources the environment receives 50.2% of California water – nearly 40-million acre-feet – to manage wetlands, meet Delta, stream and river flows.