

## Success in Conservation!

By Commissioner Margaret Wiggins



Congratulations to our customers and the whole Seattle area! The regional conservation program that was started over a decade ago has succeeded and the water saved has produced a supply that will now last over a half of century. Thanks to the efforts of residential, commercial and institutional customers, regional water consumption is at its lowest level in 50 years. As part of the Saving Water Partnership, the District, along with 12 other local purveyors, has saved 11 million gallons of water each day over the last ten years. The supply has also been increased by the building of two state-of-the-art water treatment plants on two protected reservoirs; the Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds. We now have enough water that we don't have to worry about the return of population growth. The good news is there is plenty of water!

The conservation program still continues with over a million dollars a year being spent on programs by the regional supplier, Seattle Public Utilities, to help gardeners improve their irrigation techniques and to help people solve any leak problems. They also work with businesses and manufacturers to reduce their usage by redesigning systems and improving processes.

It's hard to believe that the last year of Mandatory Water Restrictions was way back in 1992. The procedures used in reservoir management were drastically altered after that and we haven't come close to running out of water since then. The District has also invested in water storage, those tall tanks you see scattered around the District, like Kingsgate and Inglemoor. These tanks, once susceptible to major earthquakes, have now been retrofitted for such a possibility. All of these efforts combined over the past two decades have helped to ensure that we all have plenty of water in the future.

Visit [www.watersupplyforum.org/home/outlook/2009-outlook/2009-executive-summary/](http://www.watersupplyforum.org/home/outlook/2009-outlook/2009-executive-summary/) for a more detailed account of the regions water supply. ♣

## Current Water Supply Conditions and Outlook

Seattle Public Utilities supplies water to 1.3 million people and businesses in the region. Nearly all of this water is from the 90,000-acre Cedar River Watershed and the 13,300-acre South Fork Tolt River Watershed in eastern King County.

Our supply outlook for water supply is GOOD!



As of September 10<sup>th</sup> 2012, Water consumption for the previous seven days averaged approximately 165 mgd (million gallons per day). That is less than the 171 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and more than the average of 164 mgd used during the same period over the years 1999-2008. ♣

# Be Climate Smart In Your Garden This Fall

Most people know that using compost and mulch in their garden allows the soil to retain more water and reduce irrigation needs. But did you know that compost and mulch also helps your soil store more carbon from the atmosphere and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Follow these simple steps this fall for a healthier, more beautiful garden, that is climate smart!

- Build healthy soils by mixing 2 to 4 inches of compost into the upper 8 inches of soil when planting, or rake 1/4 inch of compost into existing lawns.
- Use compost as “mulch” by spreading a 1 to 2 inch layer around plants and trees to fertilize the soil and help hold moisture.
- Choose the right plant for the right place in your garden - your plants will flourish naturally with less water and chemicals.



To learn more, visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) (click on “Conserve outside”) or call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224. ♦

## Attention Rental Property Owners

All service accounts at Northshore Utility District are kept in the name of the property owners. Since properties can be liened and/or foreclosed upon for the collection of unpaid service charges, this policy is necessary for the protection of owners of rental properties. Owners of rental properties should make arrangements with their tenants (if the tenant is responsible for the payment of utility bills) to avoid unpleasant surprises. For your

convenience, the District will send a duplicate bill, addressed to “Resident” or the tenant, at the service address. The property owner or his/her agent must request this service in writing. There is an additional charge of \$1.50 per bill for this service. For forms and additional information, please contact the Billing Department at (425) 398-4400 or download the Duplicate Bill Request form from our web site at [www.nud.net](http://www.nud.net) and click on *Downloadable Forms* from the Homepage. ♦

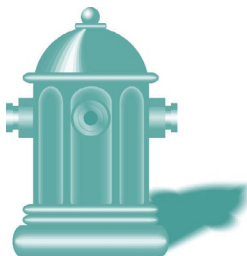


## Meter and Hydrant Access Reminder

Have you checked your shrubs or groundcover lately? Do they need a trim? Please remember to keep those meter boxes and hydrants clear and unobstructed. Your water meter must have at least a 2' x 6' foot clearance and the hydrants must have a 3 foot radius free of vegetation and debris.



If a meter is inaccessible due to debris, overgrown vegetation, parked vehicles located over the meter box or any other obstructions, the property owner shall be assessed a special access charge in the amount of \$30.00 for each instance that the meter is determined to be inaccessible for attempted meter reading or repair. Please remember that we read every meter every other month. In other words, we read 1,200 meters on an average day. We want to keep our meter readers safe and unscathed during the performance of their duties. ♦



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Margaret Wiggins  
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Board of  
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Meetings  
are held at the  
District Office  
on the  
first and third  
Monday of each  
month at 5:30 p.m.,  
except Holidays.

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