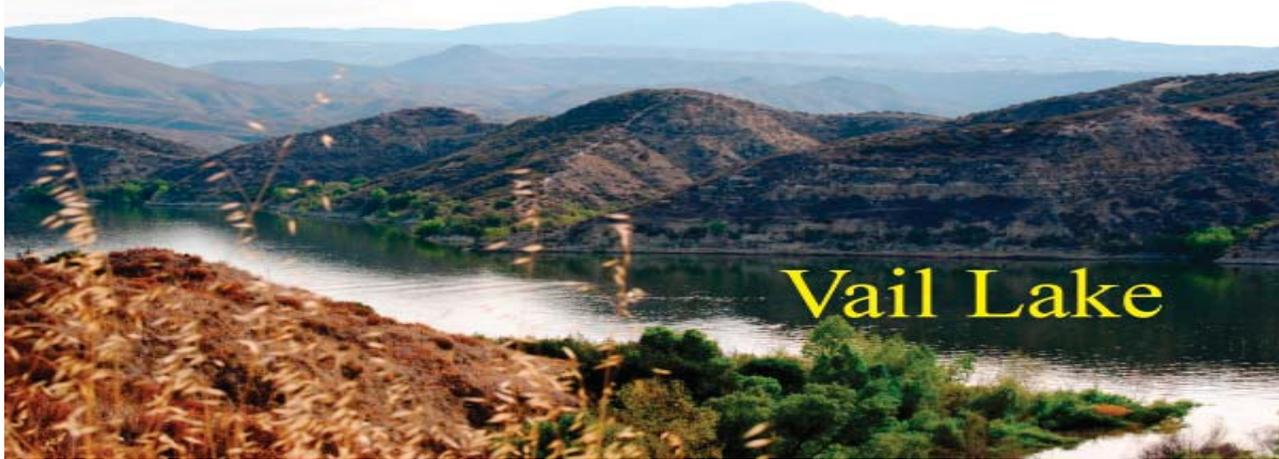




Planning for the Future



In an effort to protect water quality and continue to provide customers with a reliable water supply, Rancho California Water District (RCWD/District) purchased approximately 7,000 acres surrounding Vail Lake in Temecula through a court-ordered bankruptcy sale.

RCWD has owned Vail Dam, Vail Lake and the associated state water rights permit since 1978. The lands that surround Vail Lake were owned by various corporate entities and consist of open space, an RV campground, and associated fishing and water recreation membership operations on the lake. The District uses water stored in Vail Lake as part of its recharge for the groundwater basin that provides approximately 25% - 40% of the District's water supply. Groundwater provides high quality water to RCWD customers, provides a reliable water source during drought times, partially insulates customers from imported water price increases and is significantly less expensive than imported water. By purchasing the land surrounding Vail Lake, the District is seeking to protect the quality of its water supplies and enhance the reliability of those supplies.

RCWD purchased the lands around Vail Lake through bankruptcy proceedings. Vail Lake is an important asset to the community and the District plans to continue to protect this asset. RCWD contracted with a new operator for fishing and camping facilities and will continue to honor current fishing and water sports memberships issued by the former operator through the expiration or December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner.

» *Getting the Most from Every Resource!*

A number of events with outside vendors that were identified by the former operator will continue as planned, subject to satisfactory arrangements with the new operator. Security is currently in place in order to control unauthorized access to the property and to deter theft and vandalism, thus providing for safety and enjoyment of the facilities.

Over the next several months RCWD's Board of Directors will evaluate recreation and campground activities moving forward. The Board will have to look at the impacts to the lake, the input from the community, condition of facilities, financial requirements, compatibility of uses, public health and safety, security, and other relevant factors in order to make a decision on how best to manage the land surrounding the lake, focusing on balancing watershed protection and community concerns. If you would like to provide any comments regarding Vail Lake please visit the District's website at www.ranchowater.com.

“Vail Lake is an important asset to the community and the District plans to continue to protect this asset”

Mandatory Conservation Measures

As California's record drought continues, the State Water Resources Control Board has ordered all water utilities to activate their emergency water supply plans and adopt mandatory water conservation restrictions for their customers. For the first time ever in the history of the State Water Project (which provides up to one third of RCWD's supply in some years), there was no water available to allocate to users of this important water source. Locally, we have also had three consecutive dry years, each with less rainfall than the previous. Over time, this will impact our local water reserves.

On Thursday, August 14, 2014, Rancho California Water District's Board of Directors declared Stage 3 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan to become effective immediately. Stage 3 water supply restrictions for domestic customers include:

- * Irrigate only between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. (smart irrigation controllers are exempt)
- * Do not allow irrigation water to run off from the landscaped area
- * If new landscaping must be installed, it is recommended to be California Friendly landscaping, but must meet the local city landscape ordinances
- * Use a broom to clean hardscapes
- * Eliminate sprinkler overspray
- * Decorative fountains can only be used if they have recirculating systems
- * Washing of autos, etc. must be done with a shut-off nozzle

Stage 3



The District is incurring significant additional costs to purchase import water to meet demands during the drought. If the customers of RCWD do not reduce consumption now, the District will have to consider a mid-year rate increase to cover these costs. We are asking our customers to reduce water use.

To help you meet the new water conservation goals, RCWD will continue to fund all of our water conservation rebate programs that provide incentives for installing water-saving sprinkler nozzles, weather-based sprinkler timers, and more. Conservation program information is available at www.ranchowater.com under the Water Use Efficiency tab.

Most of the State, including our area, is designated as being in extreme or exceptional drought conditions at this time. The measures noted above are required pursuant to State directives. **We ask that you make every effort to use water efficiently.** We also thank customers who have already taken steps to use less water. With your help, RCWD will be able to comply with the state's emergency conservation requirements while ensuring that water resources will continue to be available to meet our most important economic, health, and welfare needs. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation as we strive to work with you, our ratepayers, to meet our area's critical water needs in a cost efficient manner.

Residential Water Use Efficiency Evaluation Program



Are you concerned about how much water you use? Would you like to become more efficient?

RCWD offers customers free indoor and outdoor water audits. As part of the evaluation, customers receive low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, five-minute shower timers, an irrigation water schedule, and plumbing book. If you are interested in the evaluation program, please contact wateruseefficiency@ranchowater.com for additional information and scheduling.

Agricultural Certification



As part of the District's ongoing planning efforts, agricultural customers are now required to certify their water service accounts.

To certify an account, customers must complete an Agricultural Certification Form. Forms have been mailed to each customer, please complete and mail back to the District office. You may also complete the form online at the District's website www.ranchowater.com.

If you have any questions regarding the Agricultural Certification process, please call our office at (951) 296-6920.

» ONE OF THE SIMPLEST WAYS TO BE MORE WATER EFFICIENT IS TO TURN OFF THE FAUCET WHEN BRUSHING YOUR TEETH

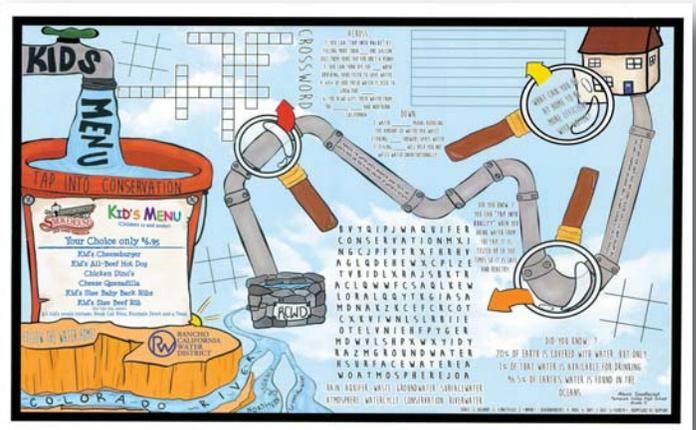
Education Programs

K-12th Grade

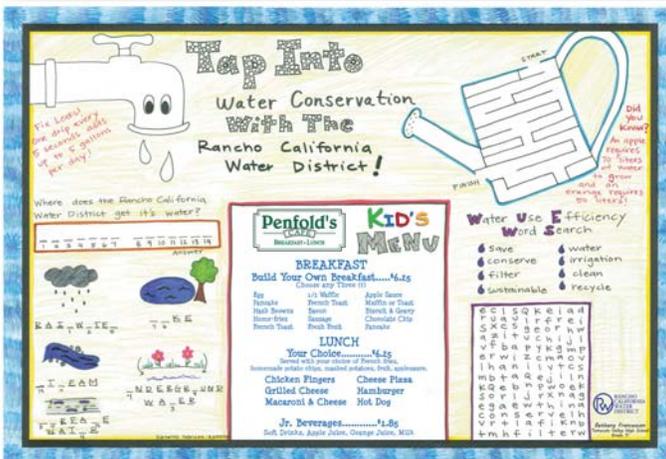
Another summer is over and children are back to school. This year, RCWD is excited to continue to offer many programs to the schools within our service area. Since 1984, the District has provided water education programs and assemblies for K-12 teachers and students. This is a non-profit endeavor to educate children about water - an all important resource for their future. For the 2014-2015 school year, RCWD will be offering the following programs listed on the right.

1. Water Education Assemblies - this program is for K-8th grade students and is offered on a first come, first serve basis. This year RCWD contracted with a theater assembly program from Shows that Teach. The assembly is called "H2O Where Did you Go?"
2. Poster Contest - this program is offered for K-5th grade students. The theme this year is "Get Savvy about Water Conservation."
3. Write-off Contest - this program is offered to middle school students. Students will write a children's book and have the chance to have their book published. This year's theme is "drought."
4. Menu Contest - this program is offered to high school students. Students design a children's menu for a restaurant and include water awareness activities. The winning menus are featured in local restaurants.

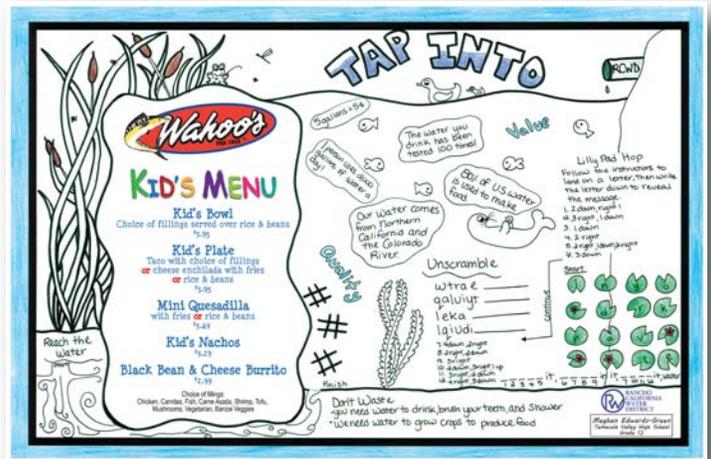
In addition to the programs offered above, RCWD offers a variety of materials for teachers to use in the classroom free of charge. Complete curriculum packets are offered for grades kindergarten, second, and third grade students based off past write-off contest winners stories. The education programs allow teachers to inform students of the importance of drinking water while still meeting the common core standards. For more information, please visit our website at www.ranchowater.com.



Alexis Szedlacsek, Temecula Valley High School, Grade 11



Bethany Franceson, Temecula Valley High School, Grade 11



Meghan Edwards, Temecula Valley High School, Grade 12

» WaterNEWS is published quarterly to inform District customers about issues concerning water



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