



VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTIONS

The voluntary water restrictions for the East Dillon Water District are in effect from May 1st through October 1st. The restrictions are:

- Outside usage is not allowed on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Outside usage is not allowed between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM.
- Hand watering, using either a watering can or a hose with a shut off nozzle is ALLOWED at anytime (no restrictions as to days or time).
- Outside usage using drip irrigations systems is not restricted.

The restrictions are for outside usage and are in effect until October 1st. The District monitors water levels in our aquifer and customer usage patterns. Should weather patterns, usage levels or water source problems warrant, the District can impose mandatory water restrictions.

What factor was the drought and high usage in the water problem?

The East Dillon Water District has for many years provided residents with information regarding the limited availability of water. This information has encouraged water conservation inside of your home and outside by following xeriscape principals, using landscaping plants native to this area, and utilizing drip irrigation. The concern, as indicated in the water quality report provided with your last billing, is excess usage for landscape purposes might result in water quality problems. The July 4th incident was just a brief reminder of how the combination of drought and high water usage can lead to water quality problems.

The District's water supply is from the shallow aquifer under Soda Creek. The well field is located behind the Elementary School. Residents may have observed the recent low flows in Soda Creek and the reduction of the small pond in the greenbelt. While the surface water is not directly tied to our aquifer, it reflects the similar situation of the aquifer. The aquifer is at a low level due to the limited snow pack this past winter. As a result the rate at which the aquifer recharges has been reduced substantially compared to an average snow pack year. The need to pump a high volume of water can directly be tied to usage over the holiday and much of this usage is for landscape purposes. The District has adequate water supplies to provide household water for all customers and the build out of the Summit Cove area. However, as the District has reported for many years, our supply is not adequate to provide excessive landscape irrigation during drought years.

The District appreciates the input from residents whom attended the July 13th Board meeting. The next Board meeting is 12:30 PM August 30th. Board meetings are open to all residents. The District can be contacted at (970) 668-5655 Ext 12, admin@eastdillon.com.

Water Problem

Early in the morning of the 4th of July a combination of factors resulted in one of the new wells of the District drawing dirt into the water system. The problem was isolated and corrected within a few hours after the first effects were noticed. The ability to correct the problem quickly was a result of the system design within the District including multiple wells and the interconnect that allows an alternate water source to be used by the District. As is our normal practice, the District had 2.3 million gallons of water in storage when the problem occurred. The problem affected about a third of the area served. The effect of individual homes in the area was dependant on the usage of water that morning and the plumbing setup within the home. It is understandable how users accustomed to normally receiving the high quality water from the East Dillon system were surprised with the discolored water. While dirt in the water does not make it appealing for drinking or cooking, the water did not pose a health problem. Information learned from the problem with the new well will be utilized to minimize the potential of a similar problem occurring in the future.

Summit Cove Medians

Preliminary work has begun on the entrance medians to Summit Cove. Initial planning for this project began over ten years ago and the District has joined with Snowberry resident John Neiley to finally bring this neglected area up to the standards of the community. Residents that are served by the entrance medians to Summit Cove have a separate insert in this billing regarding voluntary financial contributions to this project.

At first glance it may seem a conflict with the Water District participating in a landscape project during this drought period. The District participates in the development of landscape projects that are for the benefit of the community and showcase the principals of xeriscape and drip irrigation. It would be expected that when completed the median will use a small amount of water that would be less than the average single family home with conservative usage. This can be contrasted to single family homes that will use 4 to 5 times the standard amount of water to maintain turf surfaces.

What is appropriate water usage? A single family home with xeriscape landscaping should use no more than 23,000 gallons of water during a quarter. Usage above this level is billed at a higher rate and is not appropriate for the current drought conditions.