



## Spring E-News

### Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Newsletter Spring | 2020



### ***Note about upcoming events***

Normally this time of the year we would be telling you about the exciting events going on this spring in your community. With the shelter-in-place order for most of our area due to COVID-19 risk, all events in March and April have been cancelled or postponed. We will provide more information about the status of future events at a later date.

### ***Fix a Leak Week March 16-22, 2020***



Fix a Leak Week officially kicked off on March 16, 2020 in Sonoma County and across the nation. The annual water

awareness campaign is sponsored nationally

by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program and serves as reminder to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from homes each year. In California, it is estimated that 14 percent of homes have or have recently had a leak, representing up to 18 percent of household water use.

The Sonoma Water and the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership invite you to become a Leak Detective for Fix a Leak Week to find and fix leaks.

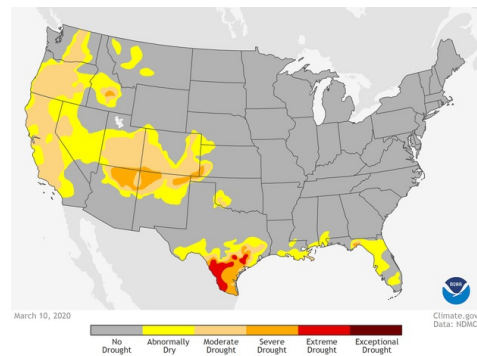
Check your home for leaks!

- \* Review your water bill for unexpected changes in water use
- \* Check your water meter - it has a leak indicator
- \* Test your toilets for leaks - perform a toilet dye test

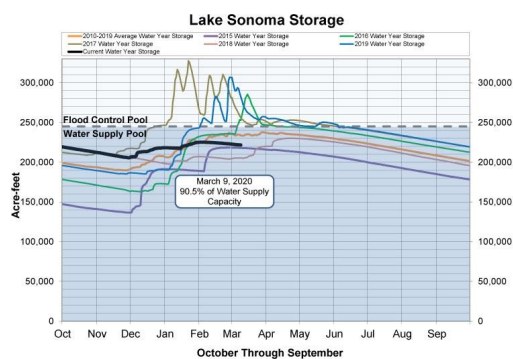
[Click here for more water saving tips](#)

## Are we Headed for a Drought?

It is too soon to call this a drought. While the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Model shows that drought development in California is likely this year, there is still more than a month left in Northern California's rainy season. Storms this spring could alleviate the rainfall shortage to date.



[Click here to access the Drought Monitor](#)



## The Good News

Because of last year's rainfall totals, Sonoma Water's water storage levels are in good shape. Lake Sonoma storage is at 91% of capacity, very close to the 10-year average for this time of year.

Lake Mendocino is 10% above its normal water supply capacity, thanks to the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)

program. FIRO allows Sonoma Water and its partners to use advanced weather forecasting to store more water while still maintaining the system's flood protection functions.

[Click here to check out current Water Supply Levels](#)

## ***Do you have an itch to irrigate? Don't touch that dial!***

For the most part, the month of March has been unseasonably dry, but before you turn your irrigation controller back on for the season consider this....

- If you have a few plants looking thirsty but the rest of the landscape looks good, consider hand watering just the thirsty plants for now.
- Consider installing a smart controller that has stored and real time weather data to help take the guess work out of irrigating.
- State regulations prohibit irrigation for 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- Install a rain shut off device to help your controller stay off until after the rain has dried up.



Before you purchase a new Irrigation Controller, be sure to look for a WaterSense labeled controller to be sure that you are buying a model that has weather based functionality.

**Click here to check out  
WaterSense labeled  
Controllers**



**Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership**

[www.savingwaterpartnership.org](http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org)