



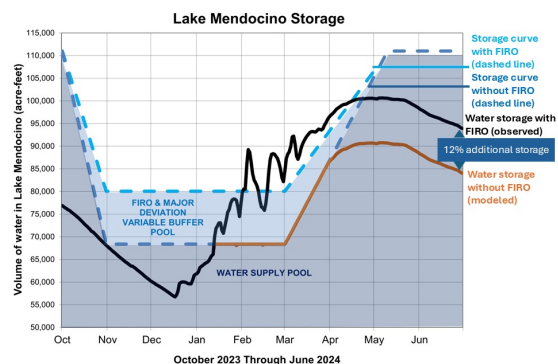
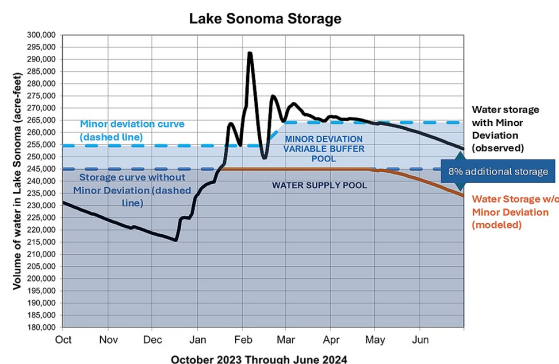
Quarterly E-News

Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership Newsletter Winter | 2024

Benefits of FIRO:

Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) is a flexible water management approach that uses data from watershed monitoring, weather, and hydrologic forecasts to help manage reservoir water levels adaptively in response to weather extremes. FIRO represents an innovative application of emerging science and technology to optimize water resources and adapt to changing climate conditions, without costly infrastructure. The key benefits of FIRO include increasing water supply reliability, reducing flood risk, improving resilience to droughts and floods, and optimizing water resource management. Flooding and water supply in the Russian River Basin are largely driven by atmospheric rivers (ARs), so the success of FIRO depends on research to improve AR forecasts.

Our regional water supplies rely on sufficient annual rainfall, which is primarily driven by ARs. The absence of these storms often leads to drought and reduced water supplies for our region, while strong ARs can cause flooding. Sonoma Water manages Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma with FIRO which allows us to adaptively manage the water supply by predicting the timing and intensity of these critical precipitation events. Thanks to FIRO, we have saved nearly 30,000 total acre-feet between both reservoirs in Water Year 2023-2024, equivalent to a small reservoir, without pouring a drop of concrete.



[Click here to learn more](#)

See What We've Been Up To!

Each year, the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership publishes an Annual Report highlighting accomplishments over the year.

These collective efforts have contributed to impressive results within the community. For example, our partners have removed 372,698 square feet of turf. That's six and a half football fields!



[Click here to view the Annual Report for FY 2023-34.](#)

Ways to Save:

Did you know if your [sewer service provider](#) calculates charges based on volumetric rates, then your winter water usage can dictate your sewer bill for the entire year?

Cut down on your water and sewer bills by checking and fixing leaks. You can also take advantage of available rebates to upgrade your appliances.



[Click here to learn more](#)

FREE High-Efficiency Plumbing Fixture Packages!

Santa Rosa Water customers may be eligible to receive high-efficiency plumbing fixtures at no cost; up to two replacement high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators for kitchens and bathrooms. These fixtures are replaced by qualified plumbers that Santa Rosa Water has contracted with.

To be eligible, residents must be served by Santa Rosa Water and the toilets being replaced must be 1.6 gallons-per-flush or higher.



[Click here to learn how to participate](#)

Find and Fix Leaks With the DIY Toolkit:

The Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Toolkit is a resource available at Sonoma County Libraries that contains tools to measure and reduce energy and water consumption. You can borrow the toolkit to assess how much energy and water are being used in your home, check for leaks, and identify areas for improvement. Each toolkit has free fixtures, including two low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and toilet leak detection tablets.



Additionally, the toolkit provides guidance on making simple upgrades that improve efficiency, lower utility bills, and increase sustainability. It's a cost-effective way to take control of your home's energy and water usage while preventing waste, at no cost!

[Click here to learn more](#)

Upcoming QWEL Trainings:

Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) classes promote sustainable landscaping and efficient irrigation training for landscape professionals working in Sonoma and Marin Counties. The trainings not only promote sustainable landscaping but also soil properties and health, plant water needs, irrigation system maintenance, and much more.



Register now to become QWEL certified!

**January 2025 - Rainwater
Training Santa Rosa, CA(English)**

**January 2025 - In-Person
Training Napa, CA(English)**

Save the Date: 2025 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour – May 10th!

We're thrilled to announce the return of the **2025 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour** on **Saturday, May 10th** from **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**! This is a self-guided tour that you won't want to miss. Hosted by the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership, the tour focuses on low-water use, sustainable landscaping, and inspirational gardens throughout Sonoma and Marin counties.

What to Expect:

- **Explore Stunning Gardens:** From **local landscape designers** and **garden architects** to passionate garden enthusiasts, this year's tour features **gorgeous personal gardens** showcasing innovative, sustainable practices that can be adapted to any landscape.
- **Sustainable Practices in Action:** Learn how to create a low-maintenance, water-wise garden that thrives with plants adapted to our changing climate.
- **Fresh Ideas for Your Yard:** Whether you're looking to revamp your landscape or simply want to gather new ideas, you'll find tons of inspiration on the tour!



Last year, we had over **3,500 attendees** explore **26 breathtaking gardens** across our counties. And for 2025, we're expecting even more jaw-dropping spaces that are sure to inspire your next project! **Registration is FREE** but **required** to attend. Keep an eye out for more updates in the coming months, including a registration link and a sneak peek of the featured gardens on the tour.

We can't wait to see you there!

[Click here for more information](#)



California American Water - Larkfield - City of Cloverdale - City of Cotati - City of Healdsburg
Marin Water - North Marin Water District - City of Petaluma - City of Rohnert Park - City of Santa Rosa
City of Sonoma - Sonoma Water - Valley of the Moon Water District - Town of Windsor

STAY CONECTED



Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership | 404 Aviation Blvd | Santa Rosa, CA 95403 US