

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of April 28, 2014



Monterey County Administrative Office

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- Sheriff participates in Boston Marathon
- Top Emergency Communications staff honored



County Staff Urged to Take the Lead in Water Savings

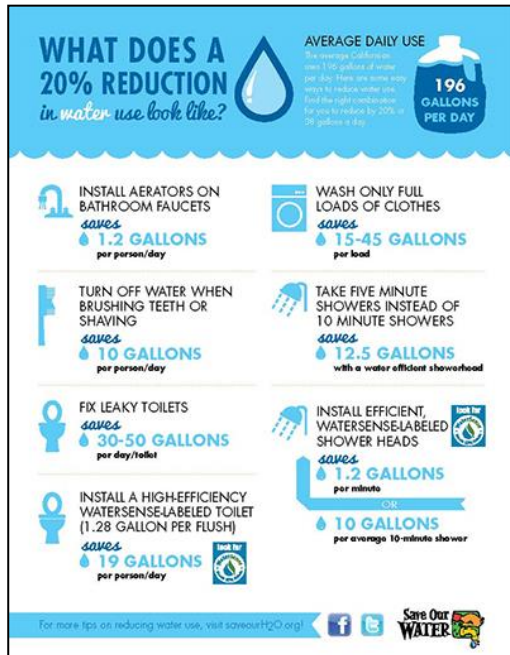
When Monterey County adopted a voluntary water conservation resolution last month, it was a big step toward saving water locally during the state's severe drought situation. While the County is encouraging other communities to conserve, the idea is to lead by example and employees are an important part of county conservation efforts.

The water conservation resolution encourages everyone to voluntarily cut water use by 20% (unless more stringent restrictions already exist where you live) and includes water reduction goals for county staff and departments. The County plans to hit the 20% mark by reducing irrigation and outdoor water use at county buildings and parks and with the help of county staff, reduce water use within county offices and buildings.



“Water conservation really must become Monterey County’s way of life, and it is actually easier than most people think,” explains Sherrie Collins, Monterey County’s Emergency Services Manager. “If every employee takes just one of the tips listed below or on the webpage and saves 1/2 gallon a day we can save more than 800,000 gallons of water a year!”

We’ll be seeing information coming from the Office of Emergency Services in the weeks ahead about how to conserve at work, and reminders about water conservation in break rooms and bathrooms. In the meantime, here are tips we all can use at home to conserve:



- Proper repair and setting of irrigation systems to avoid run-off
- Watering at night or during the cool parts of the day and don’t water if it is raining
- Fix all plumbing leaks
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when full
- Turn off the tap when brushing teeth or shaving
- Keep showers to 5 minutes and install flow restrictors shower heads
- Installation of low flush toilets
- Sweeping paved areas instead of washing with a hose

The County’s Office of Emergency Services has developed a drought conservation webpage filled with conservation, weather and assistance information: www.co.monterey.ca.us/drought.

The County is already seeing the impacts of the drought: reservoirs are already suffering with Lake San Antonio down to 5% capacity and Lake Nacimiento down to 22% capacity. Monterey County is part of the 25% of California experiencing in the most extreme drought conditions. The U.S. Drought Monitor has designated almost all of Monterey County as a “D-4 Exceptional Drought” region, the most severe designation possible.



Sheriff Runs the Boston Marathon

Monterey County Sheriff Scott Miller runs a department of more than 400 employees, but he also just runs. Last month, the Sheriff crossed the county so he could cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon. Miller has run this marathon before, but this year was special. In his own words he talks about what drew him back and what it was like at the marathon event on the one year anniversary of the terrorist bombing.

“I decided to run because of last year's bombing, in order to honor the victims and to basically say ‘no’ to terrorism winning the day. More than one million of my now close personal friends including runners, volunteers and spectators at the marathon, showed they felt the same way.



The emotions left from last year's bombing could be seen everywhere. Security was as tight as humanly possible, at least triple the security levels I recall from previous years. I ran Boston in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

The crowds were tremendous, about double in size from my previous experiences. That is because those who weren't able to finish last year due to the bombing were invited back, so the field was about 14,000

more than normal.

The spirit throughout the entire event was special, everybody was caring and concerned for one another, and the crowds supported all of us runners from mile one through 26.

I couldn't talk about the Boston Marathon without mentioning the mottos that could be seen everywhere which are



Sheriff Scott Miller stands at the Boston Marathon starting line (above). 26 miles later, Miller is still smiling and sporting the medal that shows he completed the race (left).

very much a part of the city's recovery from the terrorist act. "Boston Strong" is now a permanent part of the vernacular as is "Take Back the Finish Line," a reference to the location of the bombing that killed three people and injured dozens more.”

Miller's marathon running did not end in Boston. He also ran the Big Sur Marathon last week, completing what is called the Boston to Big Sur Challenge: two marathons, two coasts, six days.



Top Emergency Communication Staff Honored

Monterey County Emergency Communications Center (MCECC) marked National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in April by thanking and recognizing all of the department's public safety dispatchers who are often 'behind the scenes heroes' in times of crisis, as well as handing out top employee honors for the year - the Dispatcher of the Year and Supervisor of the Year Awards.

Here are this year's winners, followed by why they were selected:

Dispatcher of the Year - Shelley Ankney, Communications Dispatcher II
Supervisor of the Year – Reyna Alvarez, Shift Supervisor



Shelley Ankney was nominated by the Shift Supervisory team for Dispatcher of the Year honors for her overall outstanding performance, her consistency and outstanding customer service and dedication to the Center.

Shelley demonstrates professionalism whether she is on the radio or on the "phones." She has a solid work ethic, has an excellent attendance record and volunteers in several different roles in the Center, including Certified

Training Officer and Duty Supervisor.

Shelley has worked for the MCECC for over 9 years as a Communications Dispatcher. In 2006, she received the Rookie of the Year award.



Reyna Alvarez was nominated and selected for Supervisor of the Year for her overall outstanding performance, her consistency, outstanding customer service and her continued contribution and dedication to the Center.

Reyna demonstrates a consistent positive attitude in her daily interactions as a Supervisor and as a working dispatcher. Her ability to lead by example has earned her the respect of management, her peers, subordinate staff as well as the agencies we serve. She currently is

a Certified Training Officer, and serves as the Center's back-up Custodian of Records.

Reyna has worked for MCECC for over 13 years and has been a Shift Supervisor since 2005.

