



# The Water Faucet

August 2011

Check out our website. You can obtain water conservation information and rebate forms!  
[www.westboroughwater.com](http://www.westboroughwater.com)

**Free dye strips to test for toilet leaks are available at the District Office.**



*Westborough Water District*

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## Water Rates

As you may recall, in our March 2011 newsletter, the Westborough Water District reported that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which supplies all of Westborough's water, projected a \$0.78 per unit increase in wholesale water rates. (A unit is 748 gallons.) At the final SFPUC public hearing on rates, the SFPUC decided to increase the rates to the District and all the other water agencies in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Hayward, and Alameda Counties who obtain water from SFPUC by \$0.73. Last month the District held a Public Hearing to consider passing on the \$0.73 increase. The District received a total of 37 protest signatures against raising the water rates. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors made a difficult decision to approve the \$0.73 increase in water rates in order to meet operating expenses and to preserve the financial integrity of the District. The new rate increase will be reflected on your September 15, 2011, bill.

Some of you may have heard that the SFPUC is projecting a rate increase every year for the next several years. The SFPUC is currently undertaking over \$2 billion in improvements needed to the water system that provides water to San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Hayward, and Alameda Counties. The SFPUC is legally required to perform the improvements because of public health and seismic safety issues. Each project adds to the reliability of the system once it's completed and goes into operation. Without the water system improvements, there are over 2 million residents and more than 30,000 businesses at risk of a sustained interruption of water service in the event of a major seismic event. As the improvements are completed, their cost is then factored into the water rates. The District must pay its fair share of the cost of these improvements.

The District will monitor all of the projects completed by the SFPUC and the final cost associated with each project to assure we are paying our fair share. The District is doing its best to keep water rates down and provide high quality water, as we support a reliable water delivery infrastructure. ⌚



## Are you a Water Abuser?



Did you know that the average amount of water consumed by a Westborough residential customer was 12.8 units per billing period last year? Overall, our per capita consumption was second lowest of all districts served by the San Francisco Public Utility Commission. We are aided greatly by small yards, summer fogs that eliminate or reduce much of the need for landscape watering and limited industrial development. Although our average consumption was 12.8 units per billing period,

## YOUR DISTRICT:

The Westborough Water District board meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at the District office. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend.

The current Board members are:

President:  
Perry Bautista

Vice President:  
William Lopez

Directors:  
Tom Chambers, Robert  
Craig, and Janet  
Medina.

1,630 of our residential bills last year were in excess of 24 units (and some in excess of 100 units over the two month billing period). These heavy users only represent 7.4% of our residential customers but accounted for nearly 20% of our residential usage. Many of these high usage bills occur during the January/February billing period when most customers are conserving water to lower their sewer charges for the following year. During our next drought these customers would be prime candidates for surcharges should there be rationing or should Westborough Water District change to a tiered billing system as most utilities (including PG&E) utilize.

**DON'T BE A WATER ABUSER!** If you have ever had a bill approaching or exceeding 25 units, take action now to save money and to prepare for the next drought. In addition to using water wisely, you might consider the following:

- Replace your toilets with more efficient models if you have not already done so.
- Replace your washing machine with a new, more energy (and water) efficient front loader.
- If you received a large water bill, investigate immediately for leaks or what may have caused the increase.
- If you have landscaping, use water wisely. Consider replacing some of your grassy areas with expanded flower bed with native and/or drought tolerant plants. While redoing your landscape, consider drip irrigation. Drought tolerant plants will likely require less maintenance, be more colorful, and save water. Be sure to mulch those flowerbeds to reduce weed growth and improve water retention. Check with the Westborough Water District Office for classes if you want to learn more about water efficient landscaping. ☺