

Water Supply and Water Use Restrictions Updates

Palo Alto Midtown
General Meeting
May 19, 2015

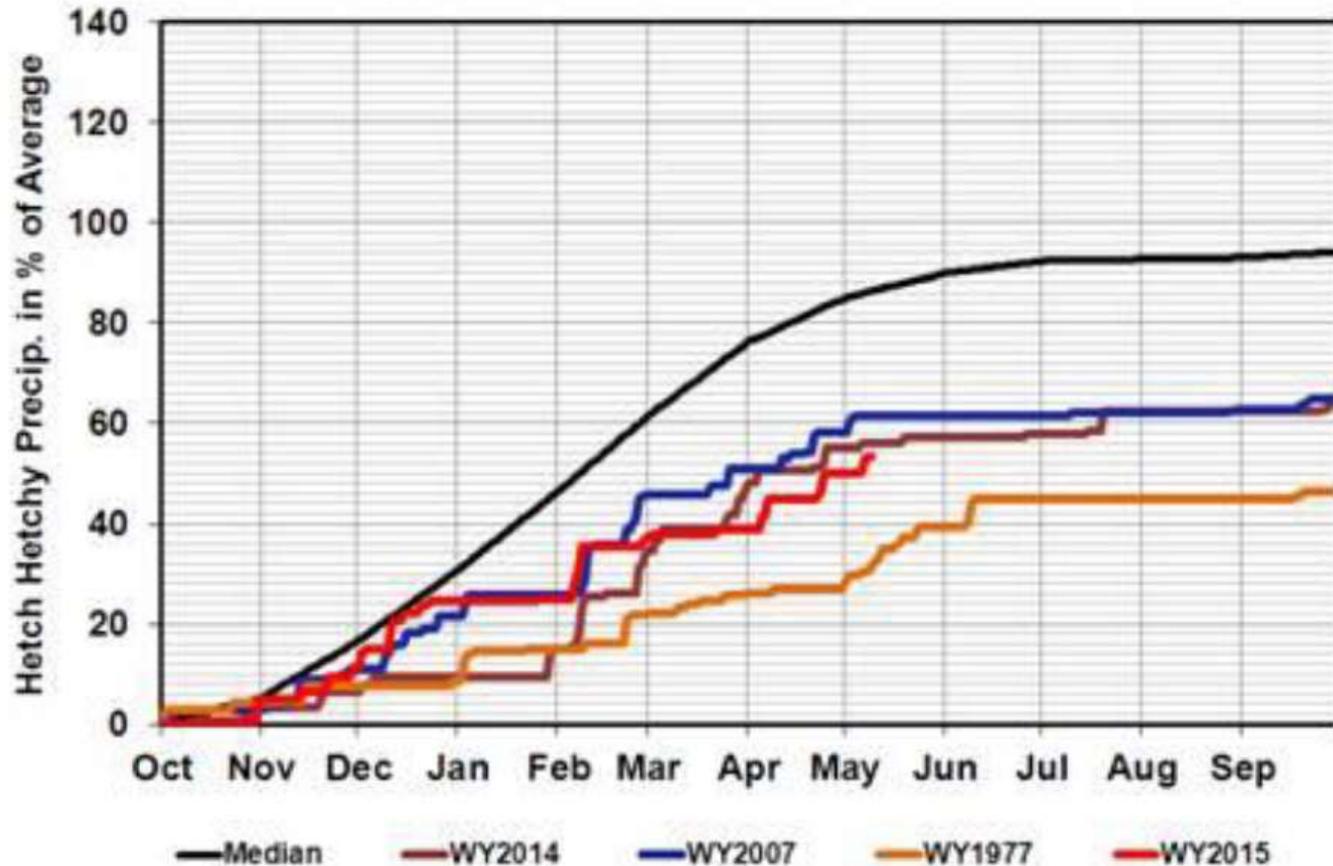
Where Does Palo Alto Get Its Water?

- 100% of drinking water in Palo Alto comes from the San Francisco Regional Water System
 - Hetch Hetchy and local reservoirs
- Palo Alto has 8 emergency wells
 - 3 new and 8 refurbished
- New water 2.5 million gallon storage reservoir under El Camino Park

Water Year 2015 Update

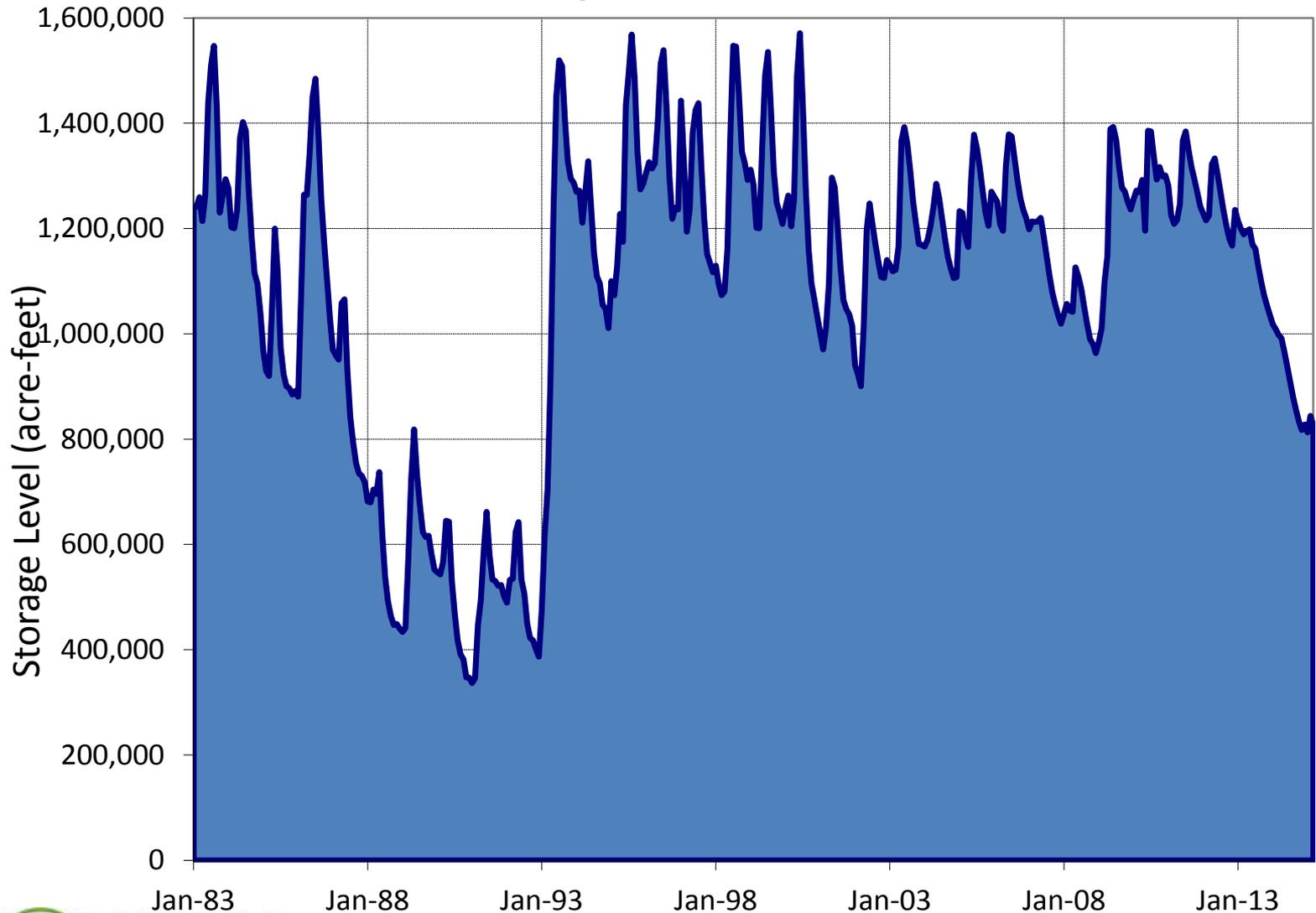
May 10, 2015

Precipitation at Hetch Hetchy - Water Year 2015



Regional Water System Storage

January 1983-March 2015



Water Supply Update

- Governor Brown's April 1 Executive Order mandated a 25% Potable Water Reduction for California
- April 15, SFPUC confirmed continued request for 10% voluntary reduction
 - No system need to declare water shortage
 - Deeper reductions mandated by State will improve system storage
- May 6, State Water Resources Control Board mandated Palo Alto to reduce 24%
- Santa Clara Valley Water District asking its customers for 30% reduction

State Regulations Restricting Use of Potable Water

1. The City must reduce water use by 24% for the period June 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016 compared to 2013 usage and must report use on monthly basis to the State Water Resources Control Board.
2. Flooding or runoff is prohibited.
3. A shut-off valve is required for hoses used to wash vehicles, buildings, etc.
4. Applying water to driveways and sidewalks is prohibited, except where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency.
5. Irrigation of landscapes or turf during and within 48 hours after a measurable rainfall is prohibited.

State Regulations Restricting Use of Potable Water

6. Water in fountains or other decorative water feature must be recirculated.
7. Restaurants and other food service operations shall serve water to customers only upon request.
8. Hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily.
9. Irrigation of ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.
10. Landscape irrigation for new development must comply with state and local building codes.
11. Leaks must be fixed as soon as possible.

Additional City of Palo Alto Restrictions

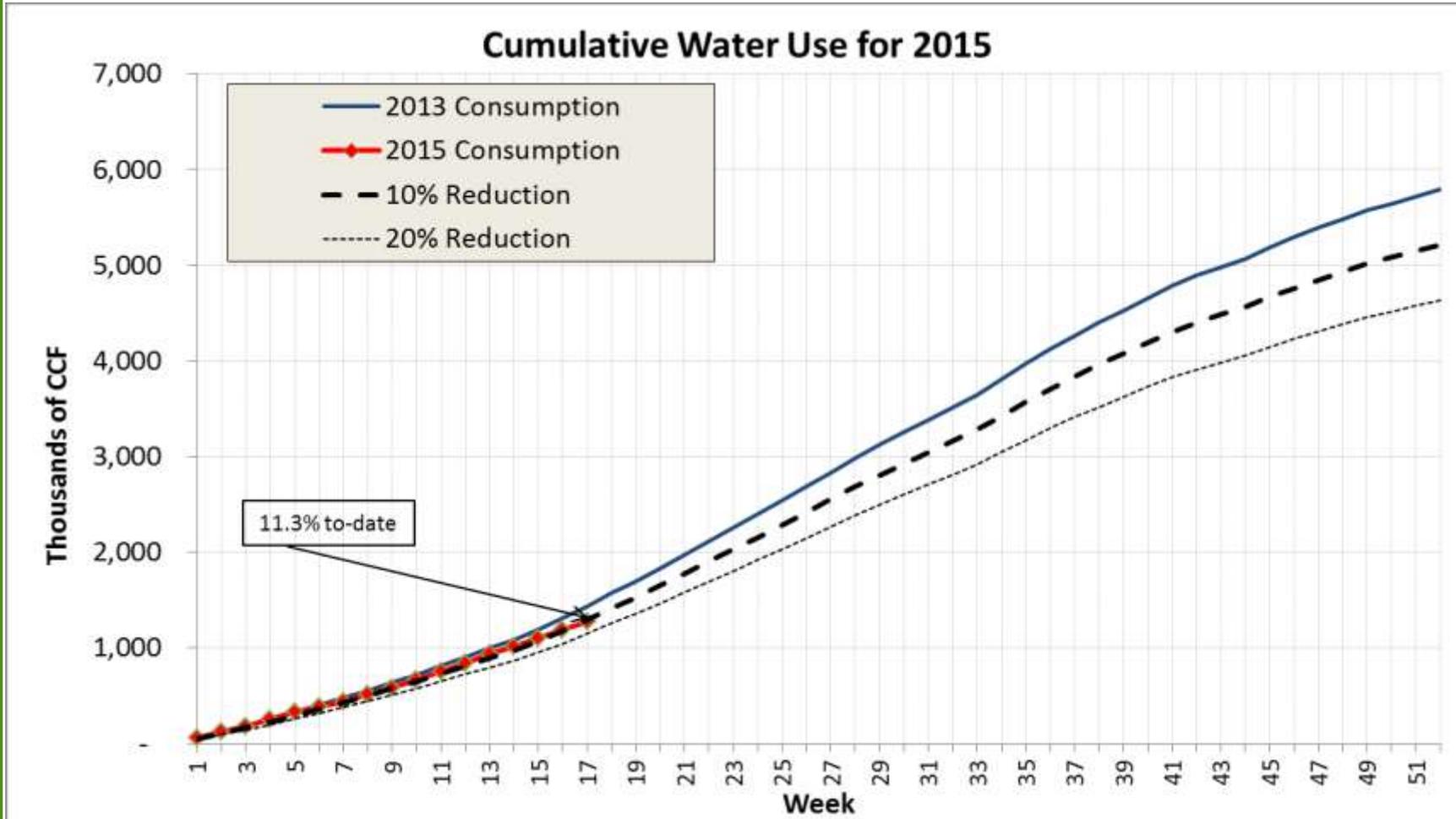
1. Irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with more than two days per week is prohibited.
 - Properties with odd or no addresses may be irrigated on Mondays and Thursdays.
 - Properties with even addresses may be irrigated on Tuesdays and Fridays.

“Ornamental landscapes” refers to landscaping for purely decorative purposes, to be distinguished from edible gardens or landscapes that provide a function beyond aesthetics.
2. Landscape or turf irrigation is not allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., except for drip irrigation, soaker hoses and hand watering.
3. Broken or defective plumbing and irrigation systems must be repaired or replaced within a reasonable period.
4. Potable water for construction uses is prohibited if non-potable water is available.

Enforcement Process in Palo Alto

- 1st violation: Doorhanger/Email/Phone call to customer
- 2nd violation: Doorhanger/Email/Phone call to customer
- 3rd violation: Certified letter from the Utility Director notifying customer of violation and potential future fines
- 4th violation: Fines of up to \$100 per day per violation
- 5th violation: Flow restrictors may be installed

Palo Alto's Water Savings



Water Rates

- Proposed water rate increase for July 1, 2015
 - Increased water supply costs from SFPUC
- May propose drought surcharges late summer
 - Applied to every unit of water sold
 - Based on current tiered rate structure
 - More information will be available in June

Water Efficiency Programs

Rebates- *Many now doubled!*

- Toilets & Urinals
- Clothes Washers
- Landscape Conversion
- Irrigation Upgrades
- Food Service Equipment
- Custom Rebates
- Meters & Submeters
- “Laundry to Landscape”
Graywater

Free Services

- Indoor Audits
- Landscape Audits
- Toilets & Urinals
- Direct Install Measures
- Conservation Devices
- Outreach Materials
- Workshops
- Home Water Reports
- Landscape Water Budgets

Water Conservation and Rebates

The City of Palo Alto Utilities and
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Partner to Bring You Water
Conservation Programs

- Residential Programs
- Landscape Programs
- Outreach/Education
- Commercial, Industrial, Institutional Programs



Residential Conservation Programs

- **Free** Water-Wise House Call Program
- **Free** Low-Flow Showerheads and Aerators
- **\$125** High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program
- **\$150** High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate



Water Wise House Call Program

Indoor:



- Check toilets for leaks, replace toilet flapper valves
- Install free showerhead and faucet aerators

Outdoor:



- Evaluate efficiency of irrigation system and calculate personalized irrigation schedule
- Provide water conservation program material and water-wise landscaping tips

Landscape Water Conservation Programs

- Landscape Rebate Program
 - Landscape Conversion Rebates
 - Weather Based Irrigation Controllers
 - High Efficiency Irrigation Equipment



Landscape Conversion Rebates

- Rebate rate = \$2.00 - \$3.00 (Palo Alto) per sq. ft. of converted high water-use landscape
 - Open to residents or businesses



Before



After

High Efficiency Irrigation Equipment

- Rebates available for upgrading to qualifying high efficient irrigation hardware
- Eligible hardware includes:
 - Rain Sensors
 - High Efficiency Nozzles
 - Rotary Sprinklers or Nozzles with Pressure Regulation and/or Check Valves
 - Dedicated Landscape Meters/Flow Sensors/Hydrometers



Graywater Laundry to Landscape Rebate Program

- \$200 per residential site for properly connecting a clothes washer to a graywater irrigation system
- Submit a laundry to landscape design plan and receive district plan approval
- Adhere to state and local regulations



Questions and Contacts

- For water rate information:
jon.abendschein@cityofpaloalto.org
- For water restriction updates:
www.cityofpaloalto.org/water
- For rebate information:
Water Conservation Hotline at (408) 630-2554
www.valleywater.org
- To report water wasting activities: 311 app