



Firefighter Matt Senn at the 2015 Apple Blossom Parade

The Drought

Our state is in one of the most severe droughts on record. You can take steps to reduce water use.

The Governor has declared a statewide emergency, and the state and local governments, including Sebastopol, have adopted emergency measures to reduce water use.

On September 16, 2014, the City Council unanimously adopted a Water Shortage Contingency Plan that provides a staged response to the drought situation. Measures that you should consider include:

- Apply irrigation only during evening and early morning hours
- Ensure that irrigation systems do not overspray
- Adjust automatic irrigation systems as weather conditions change (don't operate when it's raining, turn off or reduce cycle

during winter, reduce frequency and length of cycles)

- Don't operate irrigation system within at least two days following rainfall
- Consider switching out higher-use toilets, faucets, washers, and dishwashers with more efficient fixtures
- Monitor for leaks, and fix them ASAP
- Do not refill an empty swimming pool; do not fill a new pool
- If you have an existing pool or spa, make sure it has a cover to limit evaporation
- Only use a hose with a shut-off nozzle
- Don't use a hose as a 'broom' to wash down driveways or walkways
- Consider postponing planting of new landscaping; any new landscaping should have low water needs

- Capture, slow down and soak in rainwater to promote groundwater recharge
- Use mulch around plantings to help retain soil moisture
- Run dishwasher or washer only when you have a full load
- Don't leave water running when brushing teeth, shaving, or doing dishes
- Shorten showers
- Use start-up shower or bathwater to water plants
- Consider rainwater catchment system to supplement landscape irrigation (but protect against debris and mosquito infiltration)
- Turn off non-recirculating water fountains

See more information on our Water Conservation page at: <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/page/water-conservation-incentives>



Climate Action 2020 Plan

With support from the nine cities of Sonoma County, the County of Sonoma Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) was awarded a \$1 million grant from the State of California to prepare a coordinated greenhouse gas reduction implementation Program, titled 'Climate Action 2020.' This project is a local implementation effort to address the objectives of California's AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

The objective of Climate Action 2020 plan is to engage in a collaborative inter-jurisdictional process to prepare Climate Action Plans for each jurisdiction, much in the same way that jurisdictions collaborated on preparation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans several years ago. Each jurisdiction can make its own policy choices, but will significantly benefit from the comprehensive analysis and a policy matrix that will be developed as part of this collaborative project. RCPA is leading this planning effort.

Work on the plan is progressing, moving into a policy formulation stage this summer. The plan will require the City to consider a range of policy choices, some with budget or other long-term considerations, with different impacts on greenhouse gases. Stay tuned for updates regarding the public review process.

For more information on the effort, see the RCPA web site at: http://www.sctainfo.org/climate_action_2020.htm

Slow Down Cat!

The Apple Blossom Parade marked the debut of the Sebastopol Slow Down Cat envisioned, designed, and created by renowned local artist Patrick Amiot. Patrick felt the Slow Down Cat could enhance local traffic safety while building further goodwill between the community and the Police Department. Patrick donated the Slow Down Cat to the Police Department which unveiled it during the Apple Blossom Parade. Following the parade, it was placed prominently along South Main Street. Residents who want the Slow Down Cat to be placed in their neighborhoods should e-mail Police Chief Jeff Weaver at jweaver@sebpd.com.

Lifesaving Medal

Sebastopol Police Officer Andy Bauer was awarded the Police Department's Lifesaving Medal on Apple Blossom morning for his actions on March 15th, 2015, when he responded to a medical aid call of a 97 year old Sebastopol resident who choked at dinner and was not breathing. Officer Bauer administered abdominal thrusts. Once the man's airway was cleared, Officer Bauer continued with his rescue efforts until relieved by medical personnel. The patient was transported to an emergency room where his airway was completely cleared. Two days later, he left the hospital and returned home. For his prompt action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man, Officer Bauer was awarded the Lifesaving Medal.

Vacation Rentals

If you are considering a 'home-stay' business, a bed & breakfast establishment, or other type of vacation rental in the City of Sebastopol, please be aware that some types of home-stay uses can be administratively approved, others require a Use Permit, and others are not allowed. All businesses, including home-stay businesses, need a Business License. In addition, home-stay businesses are required to pay Transient Occupancy Tax. The City's rules are intended to promote visitor-serving businesses while preserving the character of residential neighborhoods, preserving the supply of permanent housing, limiting adverse impacts, and applying tax requirements equally for different types of overnight visitor accommodations. Call the Planning Department at (707) 823-6167 if you have questions.

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