

Entranosa Water News

April 30, 2010

Payments - Change of Address. Please note our change of address for all payments. If you are having another party send your payment (bank, payment service), ensure you've updated the mailing address to:

**Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association
Dept 2465, PO Box 122465,
Dallas, TX 75312-2465**

Credit card services remain the same, but we're looking to change those processes in the near future to cut costs and comply with new federal regulations on information security. We will be sending an update on payment options in next months newsletter. Should you need more information - contact our office.

Water Hardness. We measured about 24 grains of hardness at the office yesterday morning, which is an increase from March. It will continue to rise during May it should top out at an average of 27 grains, with a system wide range of 22 to 33 grains. A 'grain' is equal to 17.1 milligrams per liter.

Water Use. The weather in April is always a bit of an adventure – this year was no different, but water demand was lower than past years. The average residential meter consumed about 5,100 gallons this past month. The average residential use in April of 2009 was 5,600 gallons and 6,900 gallons in 2008. We were able to identify a few households with leaks based on meter readings - if you've had a leak, please contact the office for details on our leak policy.

Drought Monitor. The US Drought Monitor, which can be viewed at <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html> shows our area in the 'normal' category, with the west side of the mountains being 'abnormally dry'. The projection, through July, is 'normal' for the entire state.

Stuff with the Counties. Santa Fe County, the Revised Sustainable Land Development process has been through a number of workshops to gather input. You can call Robert Griego to obtain current information on the status – 986-6215.

Firewise. ... is a multi-agency program involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire - before a fire starts. You may find some useful information and suggestions at www.firewise.org.

Conservation Ordinances. Both Santa Fe and Bernalillo counties have ordinances dealing with water conservation. The ordinances differ, but they have the same focus – to provide guidelines for domestic conservation. If you live in Bernalillo County, enforcement of the ordinance started on April 1st, and Santa Fe County starts May 1st. Copies of the ordinances may be found on the respective county web sites, and we have some hard copies in our office. Bernalillo County is in the process of rewriting its ordinance, and they have published the new proposed document on their web site – www.bernco.gov. We've repeated our summary of those ordinances on the reverse of this newsletter.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT IS THE LAW 260-1990

Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association
281-8700

County Ordinances on Water Conservation

Our water comes from seven wells in the Estancia Basin, where over 90% of the water pumped from the Basin goes to agricultural purposes. Domestic uses (household uses) account for less than five percent of the demand (we are less than 2%). Municipalities and Counties have enacted ordinances that ‘condition’ the uses of water throughout the State, including the counties of Bernalillo (in 2007) and Santa Fe (in 2002). Both counties declare that ‘water waste’ is a bad thing – and they try to define what that means.

Water is often described as our most precious resource – Aqua es Vida (Water is Life). Although it would be difficult, we can live without the modern conveniences (phone, electricity) – but we can’t live without water, and while there is sufficient fresh water to meet our needs, it is less plentiful in our area than we’d like. A quick overview of the two county ordinances:

- The Bernalillo County ordinance has more depth, definition and flexibility, and the Santa Fe County ordinance covers a broader scope of activities with less depth and definition. Both ordinances have aspects unique to themselves.
- Both counties exempt agricultural uses from the ordinance – so – 90% of the uses in our area are exempt from the requirements of either ordinance. Thus, both ordinances are severely limited with respect to the amount of impact they’ll have on the overall conservation of water and are focused on 10% of the use..
- Both counties prohibit outdoor watering between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. during certain times of the year – with conditions. The prohibition in Bernalillo runs from 1 April to 31 October – the prohibition in Santa Fe goes from May 1st thru September 30th.
- Both counties require new construction to employ low-water-use fixtures. (federal law required this a long time ago). Santa Fe required all residences to have retrofitted their fixtures by 1 January 2005.
- Both counties address rain water harvesting, or roof collection. Santa Fe mandates it for all new construction, Bernalillo requires it, starting in January 2010, unless other measures are taken (so it is an option).
- Both counties prohibit water waste and fugitive water, the definitions of which (in each county) are mildly different – but if water, other than precipitated water, is running off of your property – it is considered ‘fugitive’.
- Both counties have developed a series of penalties for non-compliance, with escalating fines. Bernalillo County has the option of imposing criminal penalties.
- The Bernalillo ordinance makes reference to stages of drought, which will be covered in a future drought ordinance, yet to be drafted.

We believe conservation is an integral part of water management – for us, for local government, and for the state. East mountain residents (from the mountain and into the plains) use less water per capita than their neighbors in Albuquerque because the life styles are different. The community has a greater respect for water, and awareness for the need (and the ways) to conserve water. “Conservation” is a complicated policy issue; the ordinances and the space available to us in this newsletter can not do it justice – but we hope this is somewhat helpful. Aqua es Vida. Should you have questions – we’ll be pleased to help where we can and attempt to answer them.