

# on the WaterFront

November/December 2020

## MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

With record-breaking temperatures, an increasing number of wildfires and drought conditions in most parts of the state, the water district's ability to be ready and resilient is critical.

As Marin County's largest water provider, Marin Water has the responsibility to provide customers with a safe, reliable supply of water, even under challenging conditions. Emergency preparedness, strategically managing our water supply, and water conservation programs are all part of that effort.

To address the increasing potential

for wildfires, our extensive Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) expands vegetation management on the Mt. Tamalpais watershed and takes an adaptive approach that benefits from the latest science and research. That plan includes collaborating with fire officials on prescribed burns to reduce potential fuel for fires, and the removal of invasive broom in fuelbreaks. It also includes vegetation management that encourages a healthier ecosystem.

Protecting the watershed from wildfires is a critical part of

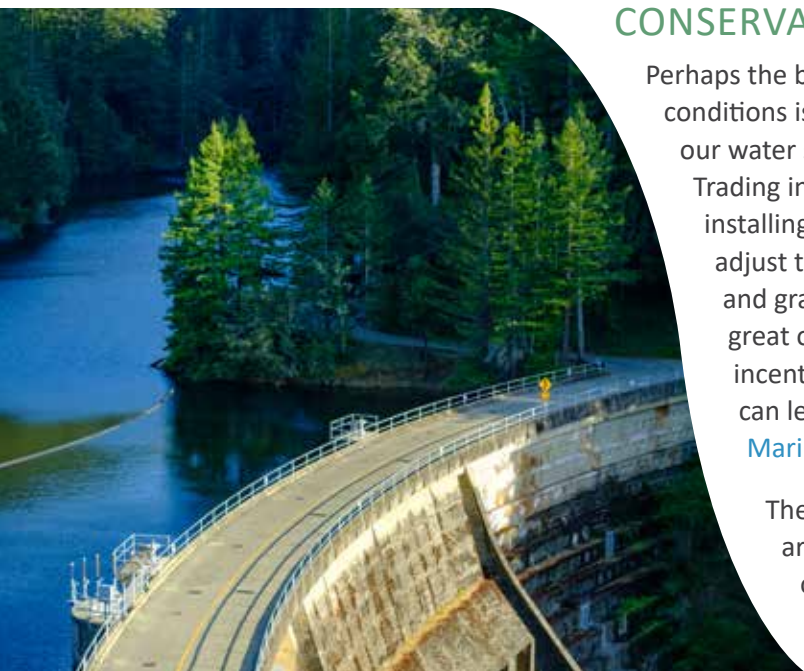
preserving our reservoirs and our core water supply.

We are also gearing up now for drier periods ahead. The watershed accounts for 75 percent of our water supply and the remaining 25 percent comes from neighboring Sonoma Water's Russian River water system. The district has strategically increased the amount of water purchased from Sonoma Water to supplement its watershed supply. Supplementing our supply now will better position us to withstand drought conditions.

## CONSERVATION IS KEY TO BUILDING RESILIENCY

Perhaps the best tool in successfully building resiliency to drought conditions is conservation—using water efficiently and wisely preserves our water supply and carries us through these challenging times. Trading in your thirsty lawn for more water-efficient landscaping; installing and maintaining “smart” irrigation controllers that self-adjust to deliver just the right amount of water your plants need; and graywater systems that reuse water for irrigation are all great options. Marin Water offers rebates and money-saving incentives for these and other conservation programs, and you can learn more about these programs on the district's website, at [MarinWater.org/rebates](https://MarinWater.org/rebates).

The challenges we face brought on by our changing climate are substantial. The best solutions will involve a healthy mix of planning, preparedness and community collaboration to ensure we have an ample water supply to carry us through whatever lies ahead. We are always stronger, together.





## VISITING THE MT. TAM WATERSHED

Our Mt. Tamalpais watershed typically sees more than two million visitors annually. And since the pandemic started in the spring, we have seen a large increase in visitors using our watershed trails, roads and relaxing alongside our reservoirs.

We know how important the Mt. Tam watershed is to our community. The watershed is open to all visitors, for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Please be respectful and share the

roads and trails. We ask that you follow all social distancing guidelines, don't visit the watershed if you are feeling unwell, and wear a mask if you cannot maintain a distance of at least six feet from other visitors.

Let's work together to create a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. For the latest information on visiting the watershed, visit [MarinWater.org](http://MarinWater.org) or follow us on social media.

## DISCOUNTS AND PAYMENT PLANS

While this year has presented many challenges, we want you to know we will continue to provide you with a safe and reliable water supply, and offer assistance with your water bill.

Our customer service lobby remains closed to the public, but you can still reach us any time you need assistance at 415.945.1400 or email [CustomerService@MarinWater.org](mailto:CustomerService@MarinWater.org).

If you are having trouble paying your water bill, we are here to help. We offer options to help you lower your water bill payments, including income-based discounts and payment plans. We also offer discounts for those with medical needs.

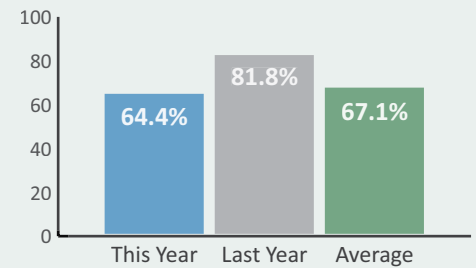
For water emergencies, our Operations Center is open 24/7 and available at 415.945.1500.

## FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST MARIN WATER NEWS



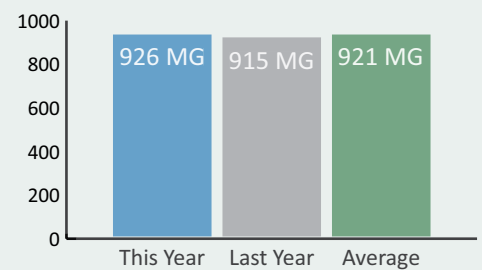
### Reservoir Storage

% of total storage capacity as of 10/15/20



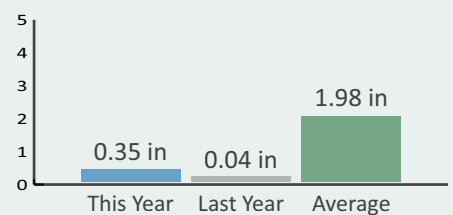
### Water Usage

Total September water usage (MG = millions of gallons)



### Rainfall Information

Total inches of rainfall, 7/1/20 to 10/15/20



## OUR MISSION

*Our mission is to manage our natural resources in a sustainable manner and to provide our customers with reliable, high-quality water at a reasonable price.*

**Board of Directors**  
 Larry Bragman  
 Jack Gibson  
 Cynthia Koehler  
 Larry Russell

**General Manager**  
 Ben Horenstein

Board of Directors meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at 7:30 p.m. Learn more at [MarinWater.org](http://MarinWater.org).

