

From: [mary](#)
To: [Water Conservation](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [john gibson](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)
Cc: [Public Information](#); [Customer Service](#); [Mt. Tam Watershed](#); [Engineering Services](#); [Human Resources](#); [Terrie Gillen](#); [Jerrad Mills](#)
Subject: MMWD - New Swedish Study Finds Harm To Bones In Older People
Date: Friday, April 30, 2021 8:38:16 AM

Hydrofluorosilicic acid, the fluoride chemicals MMWD adds to our water, are industrial grade and **NOT approved by the FDA**. Therefore, you are medicating our community with an unapproved drug that is listed as a hazardous waste, without our individual consent, without dosage control, without oversight and without a medical license. **This is illegal. MMWD is in violation of the Marin County Water Fluoridation Ordinance because you are using chemicals that are NOT approved for the purpose they are put into our water.** More than 24 other CA communities have rejected water fluoridation because the CA mandate leaves the decision to add fluoride chemicals to the water to the MMWD Board Members.

The current science shows unequivocally that these fluoride chemicals are damaging our health, especially our brains, our environment and wildlife. Please end this unethical, insane practice.



From Womb To Tomb Fluoridation Causes Harm

***Fluoride isn't just a neurotoxic risk in pregnant women and infants,
new Swedish Study finds 50% higher rates of hip fractures in older women***



- ***A study from Sweden ... found 50% higher rates of hip bone fractures in post-menopausal women.***
- ***The Swedish women with higher fluoride exposure had slightly higher BMD (Bone Mineral Density), but also higher fracture rates despite the higher BMD.***
- ***“About 30% of people with a hip fracture will die in the following year”***
- ***“Hip fracture rates among the US population are the highest in the world”***

A study from Sweden, published this month, found 50% higher rates of hip bone fractures in post-menopausal women in an area with up to about 1 mg/L fluoride in drinking water [[Helte et al 2021](#)]. The high-quality cohort study used detailed information from more than 4,000 older Swedish women enrolled starting in 2004 and followed through 2017. Their largest source of exposure was from naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water, at concentrations at or below 1 mg/L. Their total exposures fell within the same range

as women living in areas with artificial fluoridation.

Concern for fluoride's effect on bone quality was raised 25 years ago based on animal studies: "[O]ne cannot help but be alarmed by the negative effects of fluoride on bone strength consistently demonstrated in animal models" [[Turner 1995](#), [FAN review animals](#)]. The animal findings prompted human studies. This new Swedish study builds on previous studies that found increased risk of bone fractures in older people with long-term fluoride exposure [[FAN review 1](#), [FAN review 2](#), [FAN review 3](#)]. It is also consistent with extensive experience from Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) done in the 1990s that attempted to decrease fracture risk for those with osteoporosis by giving patients relatively high doses of fluoride. Instead of decreasing fracture risk, those studies found increased risk, especially for hip fractures, and the attempts to use fluoride as a medication against osteoporosis have been largely abandoned. Researchers concluded that although fluoride can increase bone mineral density (BMD), it simultaneously decreases bone quality and bone strength, despite the greater density. This new Swedish study was at much lower doses than the RCTs, but the women had much longer exposures, which appear to have the same effects as high-dose short-duration exposures. **The Swedish women with higher fluoride exposure had slightly higher BMD, but also higher fracture rates despite the higher BMD.**

This study overcomes limitations of most of the previous epidemiological studies, some of which found no increased risk of bone fractures. Many previous studies had relatively crude group-level exposure measures rather than this study's individual-level exposures. This study is also the first to measure urine fluoride concentration, which provides an estimate of total fluoride intake. Also, to better address long-term exposure, extended residential histories of drinking water fluoride concentration and estimates from detailed dietary questionnaires were used as a second exposure measure. Fluoride is stored in bones and builds up steadily over many years. It can reach levels above 1000 parts per million (ppm) in people living in areas with water fluoride of around 1 mg/L, which was the maximum level of most of the women in this Swedish study.

The study not only measured fluoride exposure more carefully than most previous studies, it also controlled for an extensive variety of potential confounding factors, including age, weight, smoking history, physical activity, alcohol intake, calcium intake, Vitamin D supplements, estrogen use, and other factors. No previous studies have controlled for so many potential confounding factors.

The 50% increased risk of hip fracture was found in the highest tercile (1/3rd) exposed women, compared to the lowest tercile exposed women. It was a statistically significant difference. The study also found 10 to 20% higher rates of fractures for all types of bone fractures, and for those types commonly associated with osteoporosis.

This new study has serious implications for the practice of fluoridation. Its findings suggest that long term consumption of fluoridated water may be responsible for 50% or more of hip fractures experienced by older people. There are about 2 million osteoporotic fractures in the US per year, of which about 300,000 are hip fractures [[Lewiecki 2018](#)]. Hip fractures in the

elderly are a leading cause of disability and death. “About 30% of people with a hip fracture will die in the following year” [[Brauer 2019](#)]. “Of those who survive, many do not re-gain their pre-fracture level of function. About 50% of patients with hip fractures will never be able to ambulate without assistance and 25% will require long-term care” [[Lewiecki 2018](#)]. Water fluoridation may literally be killing older people, taking years off their lives or leaving them confined to wheelchairs. “Treating hip fractures is also very expensive. A typical patient with a hip fracture spends US \$40,000 in the first year following hip fracture for direct medical costs and almost \$5,000 in subsequent years” [[Brauer 2019](#)].

Widespread fluoridation in the US might help explain why **“Hip fracture rates among the US population are the highest in the world”** [[Dhanwal 2011](#)].

Just as with the fluoride neurotoxicity studies that are finally being taken seriously, and funded by government agencies, this new study could help spur more high-quality studies on bone effects of fluoride. But there is already more than enough evidence of risk to the brain, and now to bone health, that there is no justification to continue intentionally adding fluoride to drinking water for the sole purpose of trying to reduce tooth decay.

Chris Neurath
Science Director

[Fluoride Action Network](#)

[See all FAN bulletins online](#)

Fluoride Action Network
Binghamton, New York
info@fluoridealert.org



From: [Tom Horton](#)
To: [Larry Russell](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Jack Gibson](#)
Subject: Glef Course Watering
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:19:25 AM

Dear Marin Water's Board of Directors:

As a golfer, I appreciate your allowing the watering of our golf course tees and greens. However, given the severity of our current draught situation, I highly encourage you to **NOT** permit the watering our golf course tees and greens.

Thanks for your consideration of my request.

Best regards,
Tom Horton

RECEIVED

APR 30 2021

Edward L. Bulkley
103 Eliseo Dr.
Greenbrae, CA 94904

MMWD

Tel.: (415) 450-7864

Email: elbulkley@gmail.com

April 28, 2021

Water Restriction Czar
Marin Municipal Water District
220 Nellen Ave.
Corte Madera, CA 94925-1105

Re: Water Restriction/Use – Public Feedback

Dear Sir/Madam,

I vote to allow MMWD water customers to use the water allocated to them in whatever way each deems appropriate to his/hers/their circumstances. Subject to the obvious restrictions listed in the 4-22-21 IJ article.

Thanks,



From: [Cadigan Sandra](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Fwd: Board of Directors Meeting
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 8:34:39 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cadigan Sandra <portals63@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Board of Directors Meeting
Date: May 3, 2021 at 8:19:53 PM PDT
To: "JGibson@marinwater.org" <JGibson@MarinWater.org>
Cc: "MSchmitt@marinwater.org" <MSchmitt@MarinWater.org>, "LBragman@marinwater.org" <LBragman@MarinWater.org>, "CKoehler@marinwater.org" <CKoehler@MarinWater.org>, "LRussell@marinwater.org" <LRussell@MarinWater.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cadigan Sandra <portals63@yahoo.com>
Subject: Board of Directors Meeting
Date: May 3, 2021 at 8:12:45 PM PDT
To: "TGillian@marinwater.org" <TGillian@MarinWater.org>

This plan is definitely not in the best interest of the many residents in Terra Linda that have been here for many years. We are faced with another draught and will be forced into water rationing and potential loss of landscape at the expense of having more housing units dumped on our community willy nilly. The claim that we have plenty of water to accommodate all the new housing proposed while at the same time expecting us to ration our water consumption is insulting to ones intelligence. Please rethink this proposal and rescind the notion of water rationing. Are we going to have growth or water?

From: [Gail Grasso](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: Homeowner Water reductions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:44:08 PM

Dear MMWD Board members:

You are just in asking for voluntary
Cutbacks in water usage and even
Assigning some mandatory percentage
Reductions. You have sent out great
Reduction moves like water running over
The sidewalks, etc.

However, I am seriously concerned
About how fees will be assessed
For water consumption. Please
Listen to me. Since the drought
Years in the 1970's (4+ decades
Ago), I have placed five gallon
Buckets in both showers and
Used that for garden and toilet
Flushing.
For the District to penalize any
Water use beyond your levels
Is a double jeopardy type of situation
For some of us long-term Marinites.

Having saved thousands of gallons
Of water Over the last forty years in
This manner, I
am now faced with severe back
Issues, appointments, therapy and
Possible surgery from lifting all
Those buckets. I am in terrible
Pain from this and now face possible
Penalties despite my attempts
To judiciously use water for decades!

PLEASE DO NOT PUNISH THOSE
WHO HAVE BEEN CONSERVING
FOR DECADES.

G Grasso
San Rafael

Sent from my iPhone

From: [m bama](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Public comment ahead of the May 4 Board meeting
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2021 9:39:08 AM

The water restrictions that you recently put in place are moronic. For example, the banning of washing cars at home will save less water than the proverbial drop in the bucket. Per a 2017 survey conducted by Meguiar's Inc., 1,023 Marin residents wash their vehicles each week. Assuming all are MMWD customers, and that each wash uses 15 gallons (which is the amount of water used in a typical at home car wash in California when a hose shut off device is installed), total water useage across the district for car washing each week is just under 21 CCFs. So over 6 months you will have saved 126 CCFs (stupidly assuming that all of these residents will use no water by not going to a commercial car wash). What a total and complete waste of your (and my) time.

I imagine that the Board will continue to do its best impression of the Third Reich on Tuesday, and impose further unreasonable and irrational restrictions on those evil residents who choose to irrigate their own property. The comparison may make you uncomfortable, but it's exactly how it feels to be a water district customer right now.

Juan Cross
Tiburon

From: [pat warnock](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#)
Subject: Confusion re water situation
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:43:24 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

1. What is the status of water availability going forward in Marin?
2. Why is it that while I am in the City of San Rafael in Terra Linda I have 2 people affecting the decision on my current and future water usage and yet can appeal to one of them i.e. district 1. ?

From: patsquilts@att.net
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: confusion
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:03:53 PM

1) Why is it that while I live in Terra Linda and are a part of the City of San Rafael, I can only vote for and appeal to 1 member of the MMWD Board while there is another Board member making decisions for the city of San Rafael that affect me personally and directly, and I have no representation from that individual?

2) What does the future water supply in Marin look like ?

Pat Warnock 415-717-6434.

From: [MJ MB](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#)
Subject: Conserving our water
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2021 5:45:19 PM

Good afternoon.

I am sorry if you may not be the right person to contact .

Here we are again with drought here in Marin and elsewhere. Yet, what i do not understand is how the city and water district that supplies water to the city allows construction of new homes and Retirement homes and hotels.

Right now here in San Rafael we have a hotel going up on B and 5th.

We have a retirement going up off Merrydale

We have a city approved retirement home going up on the corner of Lincoln and Mission.

We have the City pending on plans for a hotel at the old SLoat Garden center on Lincoln.

Which I am sure will pass.

There is no way to control how much these buildings use on a daily basis.

How can we allow this or the water district. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WATER???

Please I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

Michael & Carlos Berringer

From: [Guido Quaroni](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Flume Device
Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021 3:38:35 PM

Hi,

I'd like to install a Flume device at my home in Kentfield.

How do I access the rebate program ? Should I buy the device and then look for the rebate ?

Thanks,
Guido

From: [Al Springstead](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:16:37 PM

Where are they going to get water for all the new housing going up? How and where is the Marin Academy water to fill their new pool that is being built?

From: [David B. Smith](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Cc: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Marin Water/Drought Concerns
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:12:39 AM

Dear Board Members and Board Secretary Gillen:

I am a long time resident of San Rafael (~23 years) and even longer time resident of Marin County (~30 years). Like yourselves and many Marin county residents, I am concerned about ever worsening droughts and the long term supply of water.

I am therefore puzzled that while the board is both currently implementing water restrictions for its residents and considering even stronger restrictions, that after talking with members of the Board, San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin reports that MMWD considers there is enough water to accommodate significant future housing growth in San Rafael. There are plans to construct thousands of new housing units in San Rafael over the next few years. It therefore appears that the Board considers there will be ample water for these new houses while simultaneously saying there isn't enough water for existing residents.

I would appreciate it if the Board would discuss this apparent contradiction at tonight's meeting. I would also like to better understand how the Board makes such decisions as "there will be ample water" for thousands of new housing units. Thank you for your time and your concerns for Marin County's long term water health.

Respectfully,
David B. Smith

David B. Smith

From: [Cheri St. John](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Cc: [Supervisor Katie Rice](#)
Subject: MMWD Reservoir Storage
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:43:05 AM

Dear MMWD Directors,

I am a Greenbrae resident who is very water conscious. Example: for years I have filled a bucket every morning when my shower warms up for reuse in my washing machine — even during the very rainy 2017 season.

I read your newsletters carefully, and have registered for your gray water workshop (I have been previously told it would be difficult to install in my two-story home - hence the bucket in the shower - but am willing to learn more and keep trying to save more clean and more gray water for multiple reuses). My avg gal/day is now 129 for 2 adults home full-time (65 per person).

I am puzzled about our Reservoir Storage. Per your newsletter, last year as of 2/15/2020 Marin was at 94% total storage capacity — above average at that time. One year later as of 2/15/2021 we are at 57%. Marin's water usage, last year and this year, were both well under the average.

What is MMWD doing to expand our storage capacity? As I understand it, we have capacity to withstand two dry years — and that's it. Even with huge record rainfall in Spring 2017 (a mere four years ago), we can still barely survive 2 very dry years in a row. With climate change, we are obviously experiencing more extreme swings in rainfall — a record rainfall 4 years ago should be sustaining us for more than 2 dry seasons. I know it's obvious to everyone that we cannot count on "average" rainfall year in and year out. So with our more extreme recent weather patterns [wetter winters when it does rain, drier ones (and more of them) when it doesn't] — what is MMWD's long range plan to capture more of those record rainfall years when they do happen??? I see you are working on a 10-year financial plan — but is there a strategic plan, besides merely maintenance of 100-year-old equipment?

Although I don't see any discussion in the newsletter, perhaps this is being discussed at your board meetings. I will try to join a future board meeting to learn more. In the meantime, I must pose the question.

I am also copying my Marin County Supervisor, Katie Rice. I don't know if the Marin County Board of Supervisors has become involved with the MMWD water restrictions and drought conditions discussions yet. I certainly hope they will as this is now affecting our quality of life here in Marin County even for highly-responsible water conservers.

Thank you for listening and for your consideration,

Cheri St. John
Cape Marin, Greenbrae

From: [MsCaliforniapoppy](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Our water or lack there of
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:57:14 AM

Marin Municipal Water District
220 Nellen Drive
Corte Madera CA 94925
Marin Municipal Water District Board Members

May 3rd 2021

Dear Board Members:

Once again, since 1977, Marin is faced with yet another drought. Each year due to weather pattern changes, brought about by global warming, and an increase in our County's population, Marin residents are placed in the tenuous position of wondering if we will get enough winter rain to meet the County's water needs.

There is no doubt population growth, and the concomitant specter of global warming are responsible for the dire situation we now find ourselves in Marin. The two realities are tethered together—in our very own backyard.

Recently I discovered that one Board member told the Mayor of San Rafael the MMWD has enough water for growth in both San Rafael and Marin.

The residents of Marin find this comment by a MMWD member confounding.

In May of 2021, we find ourselves facing:

- The cost of constructing a conduit to carry water across the San Rafael Richmond Bridge
- The cost of hiring water monitors to travel around the County looking for non-compliance.
- An increase in water rates due to diminished revenues as a result of conservation measures
- The loss of costly landscaping
- Increased costs to pool owners who will be required to purchase expensed pool covers, and prohibitions related to pool maintenance
- Businesses dependent on water use will be adversely affected

Last week the owners of the Northgate Mall rolled out their plan for the Mall. Merlone-Geiger plan on adding 1350 apartments and an increase in retail stores. This is just one example of many proposals planned for San Rafael and Marin County. The presenter said every drop of water hitting those buildings will be recycled --- however, he did not mention what would happen if there were not enough drops of water in the first place.

We ask ourselves how did we get here? We are here because our legislative body in Sacramento has for the last 6 + years steamrolled over us with decisions regarding growth that are destructive and ultimately help no one.

A fishbowl can support a finite amount of life. Marin too has a limited ability to support growth.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon this Board, to act responsibly with due caution. For every action you take there will be an environmental reaction. Example: Plans for desalination of sea water are not free of environmental repercussions.

One thing is certain: Do not expect the customers of the MMWD to happily make sacrifices and then watch this Board support more growth of the population in Marin. We are in this situation *because* we have too much growth.

Regards,

Patricia and William Warnock

San Rafael 94903

From: [Boeck & Associates Painting Company](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Water Conservation](#)
Cc: [rick@marinbuilders.com](#); [Boeck & Associates Painting Company](#); [susannaboeck@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Pressure Washing Permits Available?
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:53:45 AM

To the Board of Directors,

We are a small, mostly residential painting company, Boeck & Associates Painting Co, Inc, with 12 employees. The warm summer is our main opportunity to paint exteriors, most of which need pressure washing before painting can be done.

We certainly appreciate the urgency of water conservation this summer, but are wondering if there could be any permitting process where we could apply to pressure wash a house on a case by case basis? If not, we will be severely limited in our capacity to meet our commitments to our customers and our employees.

We would welcome a call or email to talk about options,

Thank you so much,

Larry Boeck
415-250-6272

From: [Laura Silverman](#)
To: TGillian@MarinWater.org
Cc: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Public Question for May 4th meeting
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 8:13:48 PM

Dear Marin Water,

Thank you for addressing water rationing and measures to mitigate the drought in your meeting of May 4th.

I'd like to know how you have determined that it's OK to build more housing in our county when we are in a constant threat of water rationing and high fire danger due to drought conditions?

Can you please provide **specific** research that you have conducted that explains how and where the additional water will be coming from if we don't have enough to handle the current population? Is there a limit on the growth that has been determined or are we in free fall without any specific plan for the future? Please let us know the threshold and how you will be addressing the growth that is currently being developed in Marin?

Thank you.

Laura Silverman
San Rafael

From: [Grace G](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Cc: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Water restriction questions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:39:16 PM

Dear MMWD Board Members and Secretary Gillen:

I am looking forward to tonight's meeting to discuss how best to deal with the immediate drought conditions and am eager to understand the Board's strategy for dealing with ongoing water shortages in Marin as predicted by scientists analyzing climate change.

Please help me understand the following tonight:

- What criteria is used to allow ranchers to draw about one-tenth of a percent of the district's total water supply? Are the ranchers rates increasing? Do the ranchers pay extra to help subsidize the increased rates for residence?
- Given the housing and commercial growth already approved for San Rafael and the prospect of 1350 units in Northgate Mall and 160 in Northgate Walk, Mayor Kate Collin checked with MMWDs representative regarding water concerns and growth and was told there was sufficient water to accommodate this amount of growth. Please explain how there will be enough water in the future when we don't have enough water today for today's residents. What criteria is the Board using to make this determination that we can accommodate all this future growth?

Thank you for working on Marin's ongoing dire water issues and look forward to your responses to my questions which frankly are not solely my concerns but rather everyone living and working in Marin.

Sincerely,
Grace Geraghty
35 year resident of Terra Linda

From: [Paul Brunell](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Cc: [Connolly, Damon](#)
Subject: Water Restrictions not implemented -- WHY?
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 10:48:37 AM

From the last board meeting —

---"The board opted to not impose a limit on outdoor watering to one day per week, but will revisit this in two weeks. "—

Help me understand why IMMEDIATE outdoor watering restrictions were not put in place?! What are you waiting for? Why do you continue to kick this can down the road and “revisit it?!”

This is incredibly irresponsible given what we’re facing — where do you plan on getting a miracle supply of water?

Someone PLEASE help explain this decision!!

Paul Brunell
415-910-6903

Terrie Gillen

From: Public Information
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Terrie Gillen
Subject: Fw: Pending water restrictions

Comment for the Board

From: Tony Dailley DDS <tonydailley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Public Information
Subject: Pending water restrictions

Dear MMWD,

I applaud your proactive approach to our drought situation. Having been through some pretty bad droughts in Marin since the mid 70s I know what it takes to weather these dry periods. I understand that there is a pending decision regarding the subject of restricting homeowners to once a week watering. Although this may sound good on paper I don't think it is a practical or proper approach to the issue. Allowing once a week watering will only promote over watering on that one day which in reality will lead to wasting water due to overwatering and the subsequent runoff that would ensue. In the end I question whether there would be much of a reduction in water usage. During the warm parts of the summer many plants won't survive without watering more than once a week. I think it would be wiser to allow twice a week watering of gardens on designated days which would allow homeowners to keep vegetation alive while reducing the amount of water used on each watering day. Perhaps adding fines if households don't reduce their water usage by a certain amount. It would also be great if you homeowners could track their water consumption in some fashion or at least be educated on how to read the water meter at the street curb so they can calculate that into a number that coincides with the numbers used on their water bills. This way homeowners could quantify their water usage and see how they are doing. The past has shown us that Marin residents are pretty darn good at conserving water. Having spoken with many neighbors I have heard the same concerns regarding the once a week proposal and they feel that twice a week is more manageable and would still allow people to reduce their water consumption.

Once suggestion I heard was to put a halt to new residential water connections. I think this is a great idea. It would be absurd to restrict existing homeowners in one hand while expanding the number of water hook ups in the other hand. This would result in a higher demand of water from an already stretched water supply.

Sincerely,

Anthony Dailley

From: [Bob Silvestri](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: 04-27-21 Comment Ltr on Residential Water Use Restrictions
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 6:08:42 PM
Attachments: [04-26-21 Comment Ltr on Residential Water Use Restrictions.pdf](#)

Dear MMWD Board of Directors,

Please see my attached comment letter on Residential Water Use Restrictions due to the Marin County drought.

Best regards,

Bob Silvestri
73 Surrey Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Bob Silvestri
73 Surrey Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

April 26, 2021

Board of Directors
Marin Municipal Water District
Marin Water Main Office
220 Nellen Ave.
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Re: Residential water use restrictions in Marin

Dear MMWD Board,

The new drought Water Use [Restrictions approved by MMWD, so far](#), seem reasonable, adequate, and can be practically implemented. I would ask, though, that you please add the filling private swimming pools as another restriction. I see no reason why private swimming pools, which are predominantly owned by the wealthiest residents of Marin, should continue to have unrestricted use of water.

Concerning additional watering restrictions for yards and landscaping for single-family homes, I would ask that you do not make them more restrictive than you already have because any further restrictions on residential landscape watering would be counter-productive and could have dramatically negative impacts.

The “once a week” watering proposal is a sledgehammer approach that will ultimately not save water but instead increase water use, soil degradation, wildfire risk, and wildfire severity.

Drying out soils dramatically increases erosion and reduces the soil’s ability to retain water and support life, which creates a vicious cycle of topsoil loss and microbiological degradation that exacerbates the impacts of drought, and results in more seasonal flooding in the winter months.

Significant effort and investment

Many of us have installed very low flow fixtures, new water-saver appliances (washer, dishwasher), and continue to use water, carefully. I have also personally invested tens of thousands of dollars (and hours) in creating sustainable landscaping, installing timed drip irrigation systems, and planting indigenous and drought-resistant species. This was not done for aesthetic reasons but to do our part to conserve water in the long run. To fail to value that effort would be grossly inequitable.

Our home garden includes vegetable beds, berry bushes, and fruit trees, all of which provide a valuable food source (at least they do at our house). Many single-family parcels also contain a

significant number of our bee-friendly, flowering plants, and habitat for salamanders, garden snakes, birds, and other important critters.

Promoting prudent water use

As noted, the “once a week watering” proposal is a counter-productive idea. It will promote and increase using water, wastefully, because people will tend to over-water their dried out and wilted plants to compensate. This will not benefit plantings and will only lead to increased runoff because the lack of regularly administered water results in severe damage to the plant/soil's health and ecological balance, causing it to lose its absorption capacity.

Regularly monitored watering for short periods of time (sprinkler, drip, and deep watering trees, every 2 or 3 days) is a superior and more efficient way to nurture plantings to ensure that the vast majority of the water is absorbed and utilized efficiently. Regular monitored watering will result in less water use, overall than severe “once a week” restrictions.

Invaluable environmental resources

Well-tended and cultivated landscaping and gardens constitute an important environmental resource. Consider that in the developed areas of Marin towns, the vast majority of carbon-sequestering and water-capturing plants and trees are on private, single-family land. A failure to water landscaping regularly results in long-lasting, negative, ecological impacts, dying landscaping, and degradation of soil health, micro-biology, and essential micro-organisms (bacteria, fungi, worms, etc.). This makes the soil capable of supporting flora and fauna. Soil health and the plantings it supports provide essential land stability and erosion control in addition to the carbon sequestering and producing the oxygen we breathe.

Our under-appreciated, suburban ecosystem of soil, fungi, micro-organisms, rootlets, and fiber fascicles that create an interconnected web of exchange of vital sugars and proteins between all varieties of trees and plant life, underground, is vital to all life and can be severely damaged by lack of water. This essential ecosystem takes many years to regenerate once it is shocked and dies off.

Wildfire protections

The “once a week” proposal and the resultant drying out of the soil and damage to planting root systems will increase wildfire risk and severity. As was evident in the aftermath of the major wildfires of last year, yards with adequately cleared of underbrush and detritus, and with well-watered plantings had a valuable buffer against wildfires getting too close and igniting homes.

As reported [in the Marin IJ](#), in an article about how to prepare for the wildfire season, written by *UC Cooperative Extension, the University of California Marin Master Gardeners* noted that engineered drip watering systems and timed sprinklers are the best methods to control water use while maintaining healthy plants that are essential to fire suppression. It went on to say that “Plants should be properly irrigated and maintained to remove dead or dry material. With this year’s drought, prioritize mature shrubs and trees for watering.” [Emphasis added]

Conclusion

Our residential, landscaped ecosystems are not simply decorative nor can they be disregarded, thoughtlessly. Science tells us that our landscaping is an essential part of our natural water cycle and overall environmental health that must be protected just like our homes.

In making its decisions about water use restrictions, MMWD should carefully consider that in the long run, much more is at stake than just moving water through pipes and counting gallons. Protecting our local ecology from degradation is a top priority. Taking long showers and filling swimming pools are not.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bob Silvestri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Silvestri
73 Surrey Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
415.342.7877
rjsmv@comcast.net

From: [Victoria Sievers](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Comment on Conservation Ordinance
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2021 3:48:30 PM

Dear Board Members,

Thank you very much for your ongoing service and for bravely confronting the complex challenges of a historically severe drought.

We know that the needs of individual customers present many different conditions. May we respectfully ask the following question concerning the overhead sprinkler restriction to two days per calendar week:

We own and live in a duplex with virtually no side or back yards, The property has a small front yard that is both our view, our tenant's only view and our only outdoor living space. It has a small, 50% shaded, slightly sloping lawn. We can keep this pleasant little lawn green with 5-10 minutes of overhead sprinkling every other day, and less frequently for the shadiest part. ***There is absolutely no conservation advantage to watering for longer periods twice per week, because after 10 minutes, water begins to run onto the sidewalk. Doesn't it seem reasonable that we be able to employ the sound judgment we've acquired in over 40 years of conscientious low volume-short period watering?***

Thank you for your consideration.
Vicki & David Sievers, ages 75 and 80

From: [Craig Thomas](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Comments about landscape watering proposal
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:48:35 PM

To MMWD Board Members:

I would like to submit several comments about the proposal to limit landscape watering to one day per week. I understand that we are experiencing a significant drought. I also understand that you as the custodian of our water system are in a very difficult position and are doing your best to address the problem.

However, I believe that this proposal will lead to several negative effects. First, most residents will over water on that one day likely using more water than they would if watering 2-3 times per week. Secondly this over watering is not healthy for the plants. I believe that most Marin residents understand our predicament and are conscientious about preserving our limited water supply. I suspect that one of the main driving points for this proposal is the relative ease of enforcement. Encouraging residents to turn in their neighbors does not lead to healthy relationships. And I'm sure that the MMWD employees have better things to do than patrol looking for violators.

I understand that new water hookups and releasing reservoir water into the streams to protect endangered fish are hot political items, but when we are in extremis, these are uses of water that we cannot afford.

I'm not sure what a better solution might be, but I am confident that this is not the best proposal. It is reasonable to ask people to cut back on watering. It is not reasonable to ask them to watch their plants die from lack of water. Please let me know that you have received this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Craig Thomas

(415) 454-1275

From: [Barbara Salzman](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)
Subject: Comments on Ordinance #450
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 8:52:00 PM

Dear Chair Gibson and Directors:

I am alarmed about the drastic water deficit we are facing as, I am sure, you and many other residents of Marin, the Bay Area and California are. As I will likely not be able to attend your meeting tomorrow, I am writing my personal opinion that the proposed restrictions on water use are simply not enough.

We are in the worse drought in history. There is no reason MMWD restrictions should be any less than the restrictions in 1976 the worse drought before the one we are in now. Our water supply is less than it was then. Your restrictions should be at least as restrictive, if not more so, as they were then.

I urge you to, at minimum, allow no lawn irrigation, no filling or adding any water to swimming pools (not just decorative pools), and enact more restrictive limits on irrigation. At sometime in the future, the Board should also consider prohibiting new hook-ups.

Finally, the Board should review the effectiveness of the program at every Board meeting and strengthen it as needed.

Thank you for considering my views.

Barbara Salzman

From: [Karen B Polivy](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Drought restrictions and irrigation
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2021 11:42:28 PM

Dear MMWD Board members:

I understand what a precious resource water is in Marin County (and the state of California). Please do not restrict irrigation to one day a week. Please treat us as adults. Give us a goal for reduction of water use over the prior year and let us determine how we want to use our precious resource. With the increasing hot weather, there are plants that I do not want to die but they will not survive with water just once a week, especially if it is a week with 90+ temperatures. I would prefer to give some water at appropriate times but to determine what parts of my landscaping I may be willing to let go without water. I will be keeping in mind the goal to reduce my overall water use as much as possible.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Karen Polivy
5 Eagle Rock Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

From: [Paul and Paula Cooper](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Drought Restrictions
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 1:45:50 PM

We are writing to express our dismay at the proposed drought restrictions put forth by the Board of MMWD. We have lived in Marin for over 20 years. During that entire time, we have conserved water, as it is such a precious resource. Also during that time, we have been in and out of drought conditions here. This is nothing new or that we shouldn't have seen coming. Had the Water Board worked on a long range plan years ago, perhaps we would not be in the dire situation we now find ourselves. There is no reason Marin has not sought to obtain water from other areas, like most of the counties around us. Why wasn't this addressed years ago? You have suggested using temporary desalinization to address the crisis we now face. Again, why wasn't this looked at long ago? Has anyone there developed anything like a long range plan?

We are not going to conserve our way out of this problem. We have already been conserving and you say it is not enough. You propose a warning/fine system for water over-users. A number of residents, like us, are retired and on fixed incomes. However, because of the rampant income inequality over here, we believe it is entirely possible that the newer people moving in, who are able to pay over \$3million for their homes, would just look at the fine as "a cost of doing business", would continue to over water, and not raise an eyebrow at paying a fine. Until you get serious about not issuing new water hook-up permits, no one will take this seriously. It is completely beyond us why Marin continues to push for denser housing when our water, electrical grid and roads cannot sustain more people.

To require that every household reduce their water consumption by X% is completely unreasonable. It penalizes those of us who have been conserving for many years. Instead, decide how much water each household should be permitted per day on an equitable basis, and let the homeowners decide how they want to use their water allocation. Use per day will be shown on the water bills and those who go over their limit can adjust their usage for the next billing period.

And PLEASE, get working on long term solutions to this problem that will never end.

Sincerely,

Paul and Paula Cooper
27 College Court
Larkspur, CA 94939

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Barry Gilbert](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Fwd: One-Day Watering Limit -- Feedback
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 7:01:38 AM

Dear Members of the Board,

I totally understand the need for restrictions and actions to address the water shortage, however, there are sensible ways to do this. I believe your actions are totally well intentions but would like you to consider the following:

With respect to the proposal to limit irrigation to one day per week, this makes no sense.

- Most plants cannot survive on a single day of irrigation per week.
- People will likely try to compensate by overwatering their plants/lawns on the allowed day for irrigation, something that is not good for the plants/lawns and is totally wasteful.
- If someone calculated the cost of the fines were less than the loss of their vegetation, they would or should flout the restrictions.
- Using neighbors as the means for enforcement is a really bad idea. How about board members asked to rat out other board members?
- Affluent unaffected. Those with the means may opt to pay fines rather than suffer the damage to their gardens/lawns, cost to cover the damage could easily exceed the aggregate fees.

Suggestions:

Create a per household water target based on past usage (average of a number of years) or a reasonable usage rate based on household and property size. Such an approach is measurable and enforceable; is more comprehensive covering usage beyond garden irrigation such as shower, dishwasher, and clothes washer usage; and doesn't create an enforcement protocol that essentially relies on neighbors shaming/calling out other neighbors, something we certainly don't need in such times.

While I suspect you are already aware of the restrictions The North Marin Water District Board approved, I do think some of their tactics are worth further review. They appear to have adopted a more precise instrument to address conservation that looks holistically at usage rather than components of individual usage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Barry Gilbert

From: [Amido Rapkin](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: including gyms in water reduction
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:13:33 AM

Over the years
first at JCC and now at the BayClub - I see a lot of water waste
and sadly a lot of ignorance about saving our precious commodity that we all share.
I remember talking to the JCC in a drought year asking to put up signs to limit showers
and the person behind the counter said: we cannot do this here at this club

Can you please make it a RULE
that while taking a shower in a public space, one has to turn off the water while soaping and
washing hair.

No clue how one can monitor - at least there should be laminated instructions in each public
shower stall

OR - is there a way to install water"meter" at public shower faucets
so that each person gets a maximum of 3-4 min water, which is plenty if one turns it off in
between.

I remember seeing a system of tokens in a National Park in UTAH.

And please include the instruction of saving water for all residents

- while taking a shower, turn water OFF while soaping
- limiting showers to an absolute maximum of 4 min
- weekly limit of 3 showers per person, sponge bath on other days

The other day at the Bay-club I overheard a man saying
that he ordered a shower head from Oregon

It seems sad that some folks just brush off the fact that we are in a drought.

Thank you - Amido.

Amido Rapkin | San Rafael, CA | 415-785-4148

From: [pat warnock](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: lack of water
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 10:38:18 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Stop this lunacy. Tell the Democratic run CA legislature to STOP STOP STOP STOP passing laws requiring more housing in a state that is overcrowded already. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WATER FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING IN CA NOW--- SO STOP CREATING MORE HOUSING. CA CAN ONLY HOLD SO MANY PEOPLE !!

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NEEDS TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND SENSIBLE – TELL THE STATE: “ NO MORE HOUSING --- WITHOUT WATER WE DIE!! WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WATER FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE ALREADY!!!!!!”

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT SPEAK OUT AND SPEAK UP !!! IT IS YOUR DUTY.

From: [Marin Home Show/Bagley Assoc.](#)
To: [Larry Russell](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Mandatory Water use Restrictions
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:13:09 PM

MMWD Board Member;• Jack Gibson, Pres.,Monty Schmitt, Larry Bragman, Cynthia Koehler,Larry Russell

Dear MMWD Board Member;

This e-mail is about MMWD's Mandatory Water use Restrictions. This ruling was passed during a closed meeting of MMWD board members. During that meeting it was agreed that in the future the board will consider requests from MMWD customers:

***Volunteer Conservation during
Past Drought Conditions***

In the past and under drought conditions, when MMWD asked customers to conserve the use of water the self restriction not only met the desired MMWD water use but went beyond that to conserve so much more that it reduced MMWD revenue that year.

What you propose is a one rule for all, regardless of your customers property size. Customers with large property to maintain are asked that they limited yard watering to one day a week. This give them no other choice but to over water on one day to save their much loved plants and trees. A water system that is controlled by the Weather and takes into consideration the annual Summer fog when the water needs are less or no water is needed This saved water can be used for watering in hot weather. Mandatory Water use restriction limited to one day use is not good landscape water management and it is sure to kill vegetation.

Volunteer water conservation has worked.

MMWD's Mandatory Water use restrictions with the variable fines, inforcement patrol and neighbor snitching is a 17th century mandate and when put in place will be rejected by todays MMWD customers who will question the Mandatory Water use Restrictions and ask for alternate water conservation rules be put in place.

Water Conservation is a team effort; Marin has proven it is up to this task. "JUST ASK".....

Doris Law Bagley

**cc Marin Independant Jpurnal
Marin IJ**

From: [Lorrie Goldin](#)
To: [Larry Bragman](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Mandate water cuts, but no specific day limitations
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 4:20:11 PM

I encourage strong limits for mandatory conservation, but please do not use a system of a certain day per a particular municipality. That will not save water but will create major headaches for residents. Residents will figure out work-arounds and/or overwater their gardens on their allowed day. Best to have a cap on gallons per household (not a percentage cut, which hurts those who already conserve), plus huge surcharges for those who exceed reasonable limits.

Thanks,
Lorrie Goldin
6 Allemand Lane
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Lorrie Goldin, LCSW
Pronouns: she/her
Psychotherapy: [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/baafb449/gDGZ_jm3f06P-mVrTLwYdA?
u=http://www.lorriegoldin.com/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/baafb449/gDGZ_jm3f06P-mVrTLwYdA?u=http://www.lorriegoldin.com/)
Personal blog: [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/4221ac65/q4gX9VVMlkaXbynaeh0UfQ?
u=http://www.shrinkrapped.com/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/4221ac65/q4gX9VVMlkaXbynaeh0UfQ?u=http://www.shrinkrapped.com/)
415-652-0287

Terrie Gillen

From: Public Information
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Terrie Gillen
Subject: Fw: MMWD directors communication for 5/4/21 Meeting

Board comment

From: Paul Kayfetz <paulkayfetz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Public Information
Subject: MMWD directors communication for 5/4/21 Meeting

Directors:

You were given incorrect advice last meeting re the legality of a moratorium on new water hookups.

Here is your own case law:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/783f9165/EsbDz5gay0S0I2F1V6YXpw?u=https://caselaw.findlaw.com/ca-court-of-appeal/1828248.html>

Terrie Gillen

From: Sandy Barron <wabarron@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Board Comments for 05/04 Meeting

We write with deep concerns about the proposed once a week watering restriction mentioned in a recent *Marin IJ* article..

In our 26 years in San Anselmo, our summers have been increasingly hot. Temps now run between 90-100 frequently throughout the summer and well into the fall. There have been many days when we are hotter than Novato.

Restricting watering to one day a week would kill landscaping in our area, resulting in elevated fire danger and, in our case, a \$10,000 - \$20,000 future replacement cost.

We also have a 125-foot redwood tree that, since we no longer get heavy fog, requires several deep root waterings in the summer and fall. Our arborist has said that failure to do so risks weakening the tree.

Marin has a wide range of microclimates. What might work in Sausalito or Tiburon won't work in San Anselmo. Taking a one-size-fits-all approach will favor the much cooler, wealthier communities in Southern Marin while the rest of us bear a disproportionate burden.

Restricting us to one day each week will place a significant financial burden on homeowners with the inevitable drop in property values county-wide — which will reduce property tax revenue as well.

William and Avril Barron
1649 San Anselmo Ave
San Anselmo

From: ["oi](#)
To: opinion@marinij.com; [Monty Schmitt](#); [Jack Gibson](#)
Subject: More dams
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 9:49:36 AM

You have to love the logic of Bill Hickey. He said we merely need more dams since we will be getting many more illegal aliens and live in a semi desert. But the Water District doesn't care about not having enough water. Their solution is to ration us, charge us more and give their staff more money. We will have droughts that's a given and have in the 49 years I have lived in Marin. It doesn't seem like the water district is looking for a solution.

Now we have plenty of water, it just needs to be desalinated. Every US Aircraft carrier uses desalinated water for their 4000 member crew. Saudi Arabia has desalinated water as does Tampa Bay. I am sure there are sources of funds from the county, state and federal government. Why not ask Tampa where they got the funds. Well, do something.

Robert A. Casper, SR
San Rafael, CA

From: [John Clark](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: One-Day Watering Limit -- Feedback
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:27:41 PM

Dear Members of the Board,

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide you with feedback regarding the proposed one-day watering limit that you plan to discuss further at your next meeting.

First, thank you very much for your service. I recognize how difficult managing our county's water needs are during drought periods, something that seems to be more the norm of late.

With respect to the proposal to limit irrigation to one day per week, I would strongly recommend that you opt for alternative means to conserve water. While such a proposal may achieve the conservation levels we need, it comes with undesired outcomes such as the following:

- Damage/loss to landscaping. Most plants cannot survive on a single day of irrigation.
- Unintended behavior. People will likely try to compensate by overwatering their plants/lawns on the allowed day for irrigation, something that is not good for the plants/lawns and is wasteful.
- Neighbor animosity. Using neighbors as the means for enforcement will inherently create ill-will amongst neighbors.
- Affluent unaffected. Those with the means may opt to pay fines rather than suffer the damage to their gardens/lawns, cost to cover the damage could easily exceed the aggregate fees.

I recognize it's often easiest to use a blunt instrument like limiting irrigation to a single day to address a complicated issue with many variables. However, I do think there are other means that can be used to address our conservation needs. Perhaps you could, for example, create a per household water target based on either past usage (average of a number of years) or a reasonable usage rate based on household and property size. Such an approach is measurable and enforceable; is more comprehensive covering usage beyond garden irrigation such as shower, dishwasher, and clothes washer usage; and doesn't create an enforcement protocol that essentially relies on neighbors shaming/calling out other neighbors, something we certainly don't need in such times.

While I suspect you are already aware of the restrictions The North Marin Water District Board approved, I do think some of their tactics are worth further review. They appear to have adopted a more precise instrument to address conservation that looks holistically at usage rather than components of individual usage. Their approach appears to offer a more measurable and enforceable approach which, I believe, is more likely to achieve overall conservation while simultaneously balancing individual household needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Clark

From: [PAMELA KEON](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Possible Water Restrictions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:05:46 PM

To the MMWD Board of Directors -

I am a Mill Valley resident of 46 years, and remember vividly the circumstances and the restrictions imposed during the significant drought of the late 1970's, and the consequences of those restrictions. I recognize that we are in a similar dire situation in terms of availability of water due to lack of rain, and appreciate the need to find ways to conserve.

What has changed dramatically since the 1970's is the threat to our area of devastating wildfires. Development has greatly increased since that time, and climate change has resulted in a prolonged fire season with fires that burn hotter and devastate more acreage than has been true historically. Increased development of Marin County has increased the risk of loss of life should residents need to evacuate from a wildfire, as many of our roads can not handle the volume of traffic a major fire will generate.

While residential irrigation may appear to be a luxury, it is an important component of the defense our properties need in the face of a wildfire. Homes surrounded by dead vegetation resulting from irrigation restrictions further imperil our residences, as well as our lives and the lives of our first responders.

I have seen no information indicating that fire professionals have been consulted in the process of developing water use reduction strategies, and believe this is an essential step in weighing the potential decisions.

I strongly urge the board to consider alternatives to residential irrigation restrictions in light of the drastically heightened threat of wildfire. Many of us can no longer obtain homeowners' insurance from admitted insurers, and eliminating our ability to protect our homes by sustaining reasonable vegetation on our properties will further reduce our ability to insure what for so many is our only asset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pam Keon

Mill Valley CA 94941

From: [Michael Ferro](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Sensible vs nonsense water restrictions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:31:22 AM

Many of the current water use restrictions make sense and are not difficult for most people to follow.

However the restrictions do not seem to me to be as functional as restrictions might be.

For example, I noticed on my recent water bill that my use is a small fraction of the typical use for a house. Something like a sixth or an eighth.

I don't really consider my household water use to be minimal (it's about 50 gal. per day).

On the other hand it seems that most households are using many times what my household uses.

Why not institute a policy asking (or, better, requiring) residential users of relatively great amounts of water to reduce their use by certain amount, say 25% or 50%?

Such a policy could easily be monitored by users and possibly enforced by the utility.

I hope this may be of interest in helping to limit water use during this time of drought.

Mike Ferro
207 C St.
San Rafael 94901

From: [William Warnock](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:20:46 PM

- No more growth until we understand the limited water resources in Marin Co.

Allowing growth when we have a lack of water is out of the question.

The Board shouldn't be pushing growth in Marin Co. Someone at MMWD made a mistake in the past -- that is why we are where we are today. Do not perpetuate the problem.

WK. Warnock Jr.

San Rafael

415-492-9696

From: [John Stobo](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Craig Thomas](#)
Subject: Water conservation
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 9:45:53 AM

Dear Board Members:

I want to thank you for taking on the issue of water conservation at a time when it is critically needed. I applaud your attempt to tackle the issue of lawn/plant watering. However I think the proposal to limit such watering to one day a week will have two unintended consequences. First, I have heard some say that they will just water for a long period of time on the day that they water. As a result, they will use more water than they have used Before the ban. Second, watering to excess one day a week is suboptimal for lawn/plant survival. So, not only will more water be used. But plant mortality would be higher.

I am not sure what the best solution might be, but I am certain the proposal to restrain watering to one day a week is not the best solution.

Thanks for allowing me to comment

From: [George](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Water conservation
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:20:25 AM

Hi All,

We understand you will soon require all of us to be diligent with our water use.

We are happy to comply.

We ask two elements accompany your requests.

1. Deny ALL new hookups... no exceptions
2. Demand restaurants serve water only upon request.

Thanks,

George & Linda

Mill Valley / Marin home owners since 1975.

Rev. George McLaird
Pastor Emeritus, Sausalito Presbyterian Church
415-847-1994 (c)
415-381-0971 (h)
P.O. Box 1, Sausalito, CA 94966

From: [jeff.abend](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Water rationing
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:54:58 AM

Hello MMWD Directors,

As the current drought appears to be worsening, one aspect of it remains painfully obvious. In my area the average water user uses three times what I do as of the last billing period. That's the biggest problem. I'm all in favor of rationing. It's the only answer. The problem is your approach.

I urge you to get the Mega users more in line with us more conservative users. I've always been able to water my vegetable garden multiple times per week and still stay in the six or seven CCFS per billing period in the summer. We have no lawn and we have no pool. To ask responsible users to conserve even more before getting the Mega users inline is unfair. The only fair way to ration is to allow every household the same amount of water. Forcing everyone to cut back by the same percentage severely impacts the conservationists, while only causing a slight inconvenience for the large water users.

Please adopt a fairer approach for all your customers and Happy Earth Day!

jeff.abend

From: [Thomas Cole](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: water restrictions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:23:48 AM

It is written that one may not "*water grass on public medians*"? How about banning watering the grass in one's yard? That makes much more sense... as few care about the public medians.

Get real.. if you're going to be strict... then just do it, instead of tip toeing around it. This water situation has disaster written all over it.

Thomas Cole
2001 Huckleberry Rd.
San Rafael, CA 94903

From: [Nancy West](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water use regulations
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:41:46 AM

For your consideration please:

Many of us in your district have been under self-imposed conservation measures since the last major drought and our water use parameters are reflected on the info MMWD includes in each bill. As someone who only bathes at the sink in order to utilize that water savings for growing food, I implore a closer look at those who realistically haven't incorporated much conservation into their historic water consumption instead of the one size fits all approach currently embraced by MMWD!

Thank you,

Nancy West

2 Rutherford Ave.

San Anselmo, CA 94960

From: [Peter M. Pyle](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water use restrictions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:41:05 AM

Dear Board,

I was shocked how low the total storage had become as of late last year. Promotion of voluntary conservation and some limited restrictions should have been in place last summer so that the mandatory measures this year would not be as severe. I am not impressed with the 'management'.

Sincerely,

Your customer

From: [Regina Kretschmer](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 2:44:25 PM

Greetings,

As a long standing (51 years in Terra Linda) homeowner in the San Rafael/Marin area, we have gone through a few water restricted Summers.

My main questions to you today are:

Why is Marin Water giving the OK for the building of over one thousand residences in the San Rafael area alone?

We do not have enough water now. It is May 3rd and our reservoirs are 30 to 40 feet below average, and the whole Summer is ahead of us. How can you possibly justify it?

What if Sonoma and Richmond decide they need the water for themselves and refuse to send us water?

You owe it to us your consumers, and I assume most of you on the Board live in Marin County, to analyze this huge problem we have on a regular basis and are presently having, and give us AN HONEST ANSWER.

Why have we not started rationing one month ago?

Thank you for your time.

RK

From: [Sandra Cadigan](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: Fwd: Board of Directors Meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:56:47 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cadigan Sandra
Date: May 3, 2021 at 8:23:18 PM PDT
To: TGillian@marinwater.org
Subject: Fwd: Board of Directors Meeting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cadigan Sandra <portals63@yahoo.com>
Subject: Board of Directors Meeting
Date: May 3, 2021 at 8:12:45 PM PDT
To: "TGillian@marinwater.org" <TGillian@MarinWater.org>

This plan is definitely not in the best interest of the many residents in Terra Linda that have been here for many years. We are faced with another draught and will be forced into water rationing and potential loss of landscape at the expense of having more housing units dumped on our community willy nilly. The claim that we have plenty of water to accommodate all the new housing proposed while at the same time expecting us to ration our water consumption is insulting to ones intelligence. Please rethink this proposal and rescind the notion of water rationing. Are we going to have growth or water?

From: [Ashlee Vigil](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Cc: [Jessica Barrera](#); [Sandy Scott](#)
Subject: 4-23-21 letter to MMWD- Consideration to revised proposed conservation measures relating to the pool industry
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 1:43:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[4-23-21 letter to MMWD.pdf](#)

Herb's Pool Service, Inc.

3769 Redwood Highway
San Rafael, CA 94903-3932
TEL. (415) 479-4040
FAX (415) 479-6823
Email info@HerbsPoolService.com

To Marin Municipal Water District and Board of Supervisors, Marin County:

Herb's Pool Service Inc. is a proud member of this community serving local customers since 1958. We have been closely monitoring developments regarding water conservation matters. We support conservation efforts but we do not support including recreational pools in the manor recently proposed. Pools offer many benefits for many homeowners, they provide meaningful employment and restricting them could pose many risks.

There are options that can be offered to customers to assist with conservation efforts still allowing them to utilize their pools during this drought. Our intention in this correspondence is to shed light on risks and benefits that may not have been considered when this decision was made to potentially halt water usage for pools. The impact this could have on this community is more extensive than just our business. The ripple effects it can have are yet to be known.

Below are some items to consider, which we hope will help the board come to a reasonable decision:

Health Hazards Posed by Standing Water

- **Bacteria:** Many varieties of bacteria thrive in a moist environment, and many of those are bad for human and animal health. Additionally, standing water often ends up contaminated by human or animal waste, which is full of nasty bacteria as well. Not only can this lead to that ugly green scum you see on standing water, but also if pets or small children drink even a tiny amount of this water, they can become very sick.
- **Insects:** Many insects, especially mosquitoes, breed in standing water. Any amount of water that's grown stagnant is prime mosquito territory – and mosquitoes carry a large variety of diseases.
- **Vermin:** Mice, rats, possums, and other vermin are always looking for abandoned watering holes. Not only are they annoying, but they also carry disease and spread their waste everywhere.

Potential Financial Impacts

- An **inground pool can pop** if empty or water becomes too low. To avoid this the homeowner would need to have holes drilled in the bottom, and would then face extensive structural damage and incur significant repair work
 - Remodeling a pool includes but is not limited to obtaining permits, splitting main drains to meet current codes, stripping existing plaster and re-plastering.
- **Equipment could fail** if the pool is not filled adequately.
- **Plaster could fail due to exposure to the sun**
- This could add to the **unemployment** rate, reducing and possibly eliminating positions in relation to service technicians, weekly route technicians, construction technicians, storefront staff as well as other local vendors we partner with. This could also include lifeguards and hotel

- staff, which are areas that are just starting to recover from the concurrent pandemic.
- Customers could have trouble with homeowner insurance, re-financing property, selling property with potential safety hazards from an empty pool, unfinished pool construction etc.
 - The impact it could have on **local tourism** is unknown, as that area is still on the mend. We can only speculate that folks will think twice before staying in the area if they aren't able to access the pool at a local hotel or local vacation rental. That means fewer local restaurants and stores will be utilized, thus continuing the financial loss many local businesses are struggling to overcome.

Advantages to keeping pools operating:

- Remodel projects are often a response to significant leaks or damage to existing structures. Fixing leaks and adding autofill features to minimize overfilling supports conservation efforts.
- We have many customers who rely on swimming as a form of exercise and/or rehabilitation – Swimming offers many health benefits including but not limited to the following:
 - providing good low-impact therapy for some injuries and conditions
 - improving flexibility
 - improving coordination, balance, and posture
 - alleviating stress
 - keeps your heart rate up but takes some of the impact stress off your body
 - builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness
 - helps maintain a healthy weight, healthy heart, and lungs
 - tones muscle and builds strength
 - provides an all-over body workout, as nearly all your muscles are used during swimming.
 - Supports safe and healthy family fun

- Pool service and repairs offers employment opportunities which impacts our local economy.
- A covered pool will use less water per square foot than the same area covered with lawn.
- Pool water can be used as a source to fight fires

We encourage the county of Marin to consider offering customer rebates for pool covers and autofill installation. A simple pool cover can not only prevent water loss, a solar cover has the benefit of also heating the pool saving both water and energy! Using an autofill is another way to support conservation. The sensor allows the autofill to only fill what is needed which takes the guesswork out of filling or forgetting about leaving a garden hose running, thus there is less chance of overfilling and wasting water.

Our team is counting on the board making the right decision about allowing us to continue serving our community as we have for the past 63 years, and allowing pool owners to continue enjoying the advantages a pool can offer while being conscious of conservation measures. We will continue to encourage our customers to repair leaks, prevent water loss, and keep their pools safe and sanitary.

Best Regards,

Sandy Scott

Sandy Scott and co-workers
Herb's Pool Service Inc.

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Best Regards,

Sandy Scott

Sandy Scott and co-workers
Herb's Pool Service Inc.

From: Ellen Goldstein <ellencoyoteugly@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Jeanne Mariani-Belding
Subject: water restrictions

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Hello,

I was just reviewing the new water restrictions. I would like to know why there are no restrictions on hot tubs and swimming pools? It seems that that would be a no brainer, but evidently if you can afford to have these luxury items, the "powers that be" do not want to restrict you. Maybe they all have them and don't want to restrict themselves. I am a single retired person who lives alone, doesn't waste water and due to your additional fees the last few years, my bill has gone from \$25-30 dollars to almost \$100. There isn't a whole lot I will be able to do to cut back much more, but I will. I understand we all have to sacrifice, and I'm all in, but how about telling people they can't fill their swimming pools, hot tubs or water their huge lawns?

I hope you will pass this request on to the people making these decisions.
Thank you,

Ellen Goldstein
30 Meadowcroft Dr.
San Anselmo, CA 94960

From: [Mark Jergesen](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Water conservation
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 3:48:28 PM

Why don't you require all pool and spa owners to have removable covers to inhibit evaporative water loss? A very practical and simple solution.

From: [Catherine Rosekrans](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Pool Covers
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:41:02 AM

Hi,

This is to be helpful and actually doesn't come from a place of self-interest. Existing pools that are unusual in shape and design do not lend themselves easily to pool covers. I used to own a home (no longer) that had this kind of pool and the only system we could even consider (given the rocks embedded at the periphery and shape of the pool) was a bungee/plastic system.

Pool drownings are a serious issue! After much research, I learned that the bungee system could often be crawled under and was the cause of many child deaths. I nevertheless (concerned for my child's safety) decided to give the system a chance. When I demonstrably watched my child flip out a cord, we had to have the system removed.

I care about the environment and have been involved in many causes in Marin, so also realize that water is an issue. The system was salt water ... that helped. I approached pool installers about the idea of collecting excess water in barrels during the winter (when precious water needs to be drained from pools) to put back into the pool in the summer. The companies were, of course, concerned about bacteria. I STILL think it is a great idea if someone with expertise could grab the idea and run with it.

I considered taking out the pool, but sold the house before I took this step. I hope when you are considering steps to reduce water consumption, you will recognize this issue regarding irregularly shaped, boulder constricted pools.

Catherine Rosekrans

From: [Gail Grasso](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: Drought—water shortage
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:56:51 PM

1. Please make clear your policy.

We are being asked to conserve due
To water scarcity?????

Yet you state “thousands of
Dwellings can be accommodated”???

Statements are incompatible.

2. Please halt new water hookups until
A long range plan considering desalination or new reservoirs/sources
Of water can be found.

G Grasso
San Rafael

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ann Thomas](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water Restrictions
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6:46:42 PM

Dear Directors Bragman, Gibson, Russell, Schmitt, and Koehler, please approve Ordinance 450 on tonight's agenda, but with the understanding that additional measures will be enacted as appropriate depending on the effectiveness of the action tonight. The possibility that the current rainfall pattern could continue next year, or even longer should continue to guide your action.

Due to a conflict I cannot attend tonight's meeting. Sorry about missing, thank you for the opportunity to comment

Ann Thomas
Corte Madera

From: [Ford Greene](#)
To: [Larry Bragman](#)
Cc: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: Explicit Quantifiable Daily Water Use Limit
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:30:11 PM

Dear Director Bragman:

On April 27, 2021, MMWD media spokeswoman Mariano-Belding and you presented an agenda item at the regularly scheduled meeting of the San Anselmo Town Council on which I have long sat.

When I called to your attention that while drought materials that MMWD publicly disseminates calls generally for a 40% reduction in water use, I noted there is no specification of the maximum amount of water to which each person must limit her use.

In further response, you and Ms. Mariano-Belding both identified 60 gallons per day per person as the maximum amount available for use during the extant drought.

Please note that nowhere in the drought-related materials published on the MMWD website can one find the 60 gallon limit. 60 gallons is a finite and ascertainable number, susceptible of compliance. 40% of one's past usage is not ascertainable and cannot be translated into a practical limit of day-to-day behavior.

I urge the Board of Directors to adopt a specific daily maximum usage limit and to publish it far and wide. It will greatly assist us in conforming our water use in the manner this emergency will continue to require.

Ford Greene
San Anselmo Town Council

Sent from my iPhone