

**Quarterly Update**  
Steamboat Lake Water & Sanitation District  
**JULY 2013**

Dear District Members,

With almost no measurable rain in June, water restrictions and Stage 1 Fire Restrictions already in place, the summer of 2013 is starting to look like a repeat of 2012. You've heard this from us before, but it bears repeating: the Board's primary responsibility is to provide water for domestic use and fire protection. Nowhere was this responsibility more apparent than just a few days ago when a detached garage in our District caught fire. Fortunately it was spotted early, the Fire Department arrived quickly and flames were doused before they spread to the wooded surroundings. The Fire Department drew water from our fire hydrants to fight the fire and it took one and one half days of running all three wells at full capacity to replenish our storage, which is why the "Low Water" signs were posted. This is a very real reminder that our fire protection system is a critical part of our services.

After Health and Safety, the watering of landscaping is a secondary concern. By State law, we have to treat all water we produce as if it will be used for domestic (drinking quality) consumption. With approximately five miles of water supply piping, it is not practical to build a separate system to deliver non-potable water for landscaping. This means that all of the water you use for landscaping has been treated and we all share in this expense. Water conservation saves us money and preserves an essential resource. Fortunately most District members already appreciate the beautiful natural scenery that surrounds us and have adapted home landscaping to follow suit.

This year the Board updated Section 7 of our Rules and Regulations regarding water conservation; we also implemented water restrictions effective May 15, 2013. Watering of landscaping in the summer doubles our water usage. As anticipated, water consumption has jumped from approximately 15,000 gallons/day during the 2013 winter months to 28,500 gallons/day by the end of June. This is approximately 10% less than last year at this time though still 27% higher than the average two years ago.

It is so important for all of you to understand and comply with the water restrictions now in place. Watering is allowed three days a week for each household, with no watering between the hours of 10 am to 6 pm. If your street number ends on an even number (for instance 43124), you can water on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. If your street number ends in an odd number (for instance 54175), you can water on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. No watering is allowed by anyone on Wednesday. This rotation helps to balance water demand throughout the week and eliminates uncertainty of where and when watering can take place. It is being utilized by many communities, including the City of Steamboat Springs.

We attach Section 7 of our Rules and Regulations on Water Conservation so that you can review all of the regulations. As a Board, we decided to limit watering of landscaping per "Section 7.2.a: Drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardening are encouraged. Otherwise hand-held devices with spring-loaded nozzles can be used. These are the only options allowed." This is a departure from past regulations in that it will, of necessity, limit lawn watering since sprinkler systems do not qualify. Given the context of the "new normal" with less snowfall, less snow pack, and drier summers, we feel it is important for the watering of landscaping to be more intentional and carefully monitored by homeowners. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you are renting your home, please be sure that your tenants understand these rules as well.

One announcement we are happy to make is that we have received an \$84,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs that will cover half of the costs of replacing our original 1971 well. This winter the Board set replacement of this original well (Well A, Filing 1 on Golden Tide), to restore it to its prior role as main water producer. It will relieve pressure on Well B (Filing 2 on Jupiter) which is more expensive to operate due to iron treatment requirements. We had originally planned to bring the new well on line by Fall 2013, but State approval requirements have extended the schedule and it may be necessary to postpone bringing the new well on-line to the Spring of 2014.

It was suggested at last year's annual Association meeting, that the Water & Sanitation District Board members make themselves available when so many homeowners are here for the Association meeting. We think this is an excellent idea, and plan to host a question and answer session one hour prior to the Association meeting on Saturday, September 14, with the time to be announced. We would be delighted if you could join us. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any Board member or join us at one of our monthly meetings. Check the Home Page of our website for the most current meeting information at [www.colorado.gov/SLWSD.com](http://www.colorado.gov/SLWSD.com)

***Remember, every gallon of water we save is a gallon that we do not have to pump out of the ground, treat, distribute, then collect, and treat yet again at the sewer treatment plant.***

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**PUMP IT ONCE**
**TREAT IT TWICE**
**CONSERVE IT ALWAYS**

Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District Board,

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