



# Water News

Special Edition: Planning for Your District's Water Future ■ Fall 2008

## Join 300 of Your Neighbors WHO HAVE TAKEN A FREE WATER CHECKUP



### A WATER CONSERVATION MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Neighbor:

To help address our District's water supply challenges, the Board of Directors has underway a three-pronged plan: *conservation education*; a new *conservation rate structure*; and help for our customers through the *water conservation program*.

A feature of this program is a bargain offer—a FREE water checkup at your home or business by our water conservation professional. 300 of your neighbors have already taken advantage of this offer, and experienced significant reductions in water use and their water bills.

We appreciate the support of many customers who are already conserving water. This is your chance to join them. Read on to learn how.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

They have saved water; saved money and kept their landscapes healthy and beautiful.

**Call Mike Clark and Schedule  
a Water-Wise Checkup at  
805/969-2271**

He will come to your property and show you or your landscaper how to save water and money. It is quick and easy.

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*"I was floored by Mike's knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment. It was a positive experience that will help save the environment and save me money. I am very grateful for the Water District's help."*

—Robert Schnur, San Ysidro Lane

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# Free Water Checkup Will Save Us Water and Save You Money!

## A Water Checkup is Quick and Easy

Mike Clark, our water conservation specialist, has worked with Montecito-area landscapes for more than two decades.

Mike will come to your home or business and analyze your existing landscape. Typically, he finds that a few simple adjustments to the irrigation controller can decrease water use, may improve the health of your plants and lower water costs.

## What the Checkup Finds

Up to 80% of residential water use is for landscaping. The water budget for your landscape is set by the controller to automatically turn on your sprinklers on certain days at a certain time per station. Watering must be adjusted for fog, seasonal changes and rain. If adjustments are not made, your landscape is probably being over-watered.

## The Culprit Is Over-Watering

Generally, large established shrubs used for hedges—such as *Pittosporum*, *Eugenia*, or *Ficus*—are over-watered by a factor of two or three. Plants become water logged, inhibiting growth and plant health, and causing more frequent trimming and other costly maintenance. Watering once every two or three weeks would be adequate.

Mike will show you or your gardener how to get the most benefit from your irrigation controller. He will also show you how to detect leaks in the system.

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*“Unknown to us, an automatic valve was open 24 hrs a day. Mike spotted this huge water waster immediately and suggested a clever fix, saving a tremendous amount of water and money. We are very pleased.”*

*—Penelope Bianchi, East Valley Road*

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## SEE HOW MUCH YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE SAVING

### Example 1 - A Modest Size Lot

Annual Water Savings, 216,912 gallons

49% decrease in water bill

Mr. William Coln lives on Cota Lane on a half-acre lot. Following the recommendation for a change in his water budget, Mr. Coln saved about 290 hundred-cubic-feet of water over one year, for a cumulative savings of 216,912 gallons of water and a 49% savings in his water bill.



*These results, multiplied by hundreds of residents, add up to major water economies, and financial savings—and usually with improved landscape appearance and health.*

REMEMBER THERE IS NO COST FOR THE LANDSCAPE CHECKUP SERVICE.  
JUST CALL 805/969-2271 AND ASK FOR MIKE.



### Example 2 – A Sizeable Lot

Annual Water Savings, 222,904 gallons  
34% decrease in water bill

The home of Jane and David Buchanan is situated along Ortega Ridge Road on 2.8 acres. The Buchanans adopted recommendations made by Mike Clark and achieved an annual water savings of about 298 hundred-cubic-feet of water—or 222,904 gallons, and a water bill savings of 34%.



### Example 3 – A Large Lot

Annual Water Savings, 575,212 gallons  
39% decrease in water bill

Mr. Mark Cerami's home in Cima del Mundo is situated on a lot of 11.8 acres. Following Mike's new water budget recommendations for a year resulted in a savings of approximately 769 hundred-cubic-feet of water—or 575,212 gallons—and a water bill reduction of 39%.

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*“The Friendship Center is a non-profit that cannot afford to waste money or water. Mike was very patient in helping us track down where we were wasting water and offered practical solutions to stop the waste.”*

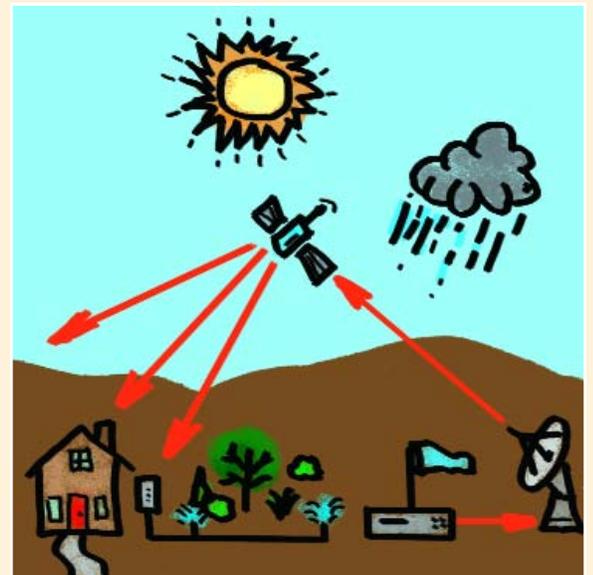
*—Barbara Faulkner, Eucalyptus Lane*

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## Use Simple and High-Tech Landscaping Tools

**Rotating Nozzles** apply water much more slowly and uniformly than conventional spray nozzles, allowing water to soak into the ground instead of running off.

**Soil Moisture Sensors** identify the amount of moisture below ground where the roots are and adjust sprinklers to water only when the soil below the surface is dry.



**Smart Irrigation Controllers** work on a simple principle and do it automatically with the aid of satellite technology: provide the appropriate water schedule, adjust for weather changes, irrigate based on the specific needs of your plants and landscape.

# Mike's Secrets For a Beautiful, Water-Wise Garden

**Mike's suggestions for making your irrigation easier and more efficient.**

- **Set your sprinkler systems to water in the morning instead of at night.**

This enables stuck valves, leaking pipes and broken sprinkler heads to be seen, adjusted or repaired.



- **Water large established shrubs and fruit trees only once every two or three weeks throughout the summer.** Do not water at all during the cool seasons or after a rain.
- **Make sure your plant zones are in separate irrigation programs based on their diverse water needs.** Put high-water-use turf on program A, medium-water-use plants on program B, and low-water-use plants on program C. Your grass and plants will thrive better, and you will save water. A one-size irrigation plan does not fit all.
- **Replace thirsty turf areas that are not used much with attractive, low-water-use ground covers.** If some lawn areas are only for the green color, consider substituting low-growing, drought-resistant ground covers. Or, use mulch, gravel or other materials to bring color and variety to your landscape.
- **Call for a FREE landscape checkup, or just to make sure your irrigation controller is working the best possible way.** If you suspect over-watering, or desire information about new technology on the market, call to make an appointment.



Lets work together to save water and reduce your water bill.

Call Mike Clark, Montecito's Water Wise Landscape Pro. He is available to help owners and landscapers for free, in English or Spanish.

*"Working with Mike was surprisingly fast and simple, and we expect it to make a huge difference in our water bill."*

*—Dick Thielscher, Picacho Lane*

Over 300 of your neighbors have already called. Why don't you?

**805/969-2271**



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