

A Note on Water Conservation

To the owners and residents of Dillon Valley:

Currently Dillon Valley District's water customers are not on a water meter. Our quarterly billing structure allows for unlimited water use. Unfortunately this does not mean that we have an unlimited supply of water. As the District is nearing build-out so are we approaching the maximum design capacity of the water treatment plant. As more of the properties in the Valley are converted to full-time residences we are seeing more and more water thirsty landscaping. If the District reaches or exceeds design capacity of its water treatment plant, the residents of Dillon Valley will have some choices to make.

We can:

- Expand the water treatment plant at considerable expense.
- Install water meters.
- Initiate mandatory watering restrictions.

The easiest and cheapest alternative is for all residents to practice conservation now before excessive use forces an expansion of the facility just to water lawns (we have enough capacity for other domestic use).

Outdoor conservation options:

- ◆ Manage your hose and sprinkler
 - apply water to areas needing it, not the driveway or street
 - Don't water for an excessive amount of time
- ◆ Sprinkler systems also need management
 - Broken sprinkler heads wastes water.
 - Out-of-adjustment sprinkler heads irrigate areas not needing water.
 - Sprinkler systems on time clocks irrigate even when its raining or area doesn't really need watering (there are devices that will stop irrigation if it is raining).
 - Sprinkler systems cannot be turned on and then forgotten – they must be checked frequently to make sure they are operating properly.
- ◆ Another great way to save water is to landscape using Xeriscape techniques. This involves limiting the amount of grass planted and instead uses plants that require reduced amounts of water.
- ◆ Allowing an open hose to run when washing cars or other such activities also wastes a considerable amount of water. Use hoses with some sort of shut-off device.
- ◆ John Lorvath with Neils Lunceford, Inc. in Silverthorne generally recommends watering in the morning after about 7:00AM and in the evening after the wind dies down. It is also recommended to do a couple of short irrigation cycles verses long, deep irrigation. This does change in some areas of the county but in general applies to Dillon Valley.

Considerable water savings can also occur inside your residence:

- ◆ Don't allow the water to run while brushing teeth or shaving.
- ◆ When washing dishes, don't allow the hot water to run for rinsing, instead wash several items then rinse (this also saves energy costs for the hot water).

A good basis for water conservation is to never allow the water to run when it is not directly being used. Just ideas, but mostly be conscious of your water use and you can devise your own methods to conserve. Again the

point of this letter is to encourage water conservation so we do not have to incur the expense of increasing capacity of our treatment plant, install, read and maintain water meters or initiate watering restrictions.

Remember, conservation is good for the environment and your wallet!

Thank You.

Board of Directors and the District Manager of Dillon Valley District

Attached is a graph that demonstrates the increased water usage during the summer time.

Dillon Valley Water Usage in 2000

