



Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Environmental Protection Department

Newsletter

Volume III, April 2014: Drought/ Wellness Day/ Earth Day

Don't be Fooled Recent Rains: We are in a Serious Drought

Despite the recent rains California is in a serious drought, in fact more serious than most people predicted. Please take water conservation seriously. There is a 1:1,000 chance of reaching the average range of rainfall this season. The situation this year is extreme. Previously 1934 was seen as the outlier year for extreme high average temperatures and low rainfall. The last several years have come close to 1934 and 2013 surpassed it. Half of the water in California is stored in the snowpack to melt through the summer months. This year snow pack ranges from 20% of normal to 15% further south. Even

with predictions of more snow and rain through the spring California's water supply is going to be down by 50% of average. No matter where you live in California the situation is extreme and needs to be taken seriously. Please use water conservation measures in your homes, yards and places of work. In the 1976-77 drought there were 35% less people in California with not much difference in water storage. Be prepared to use less water, but also be prepared for the economic impacts that will hit California as a result. In the 1970s drought \$11.6 billion in damages in today's money came from the drought. This year it is expected that there will be \$50-100 billion in damages to our economy. Agriculture will be hit particularly hard and so you can expect this to impact the consumer

through higher food prices. California's water situation this year is critical; please be prepared.



Lake Mendocino after February Rains

Water conservation is important to remember not just during a drought, but all the time. If we conserve water on a regular basis when a drought hits we will have more water in storage to help get through the dry period. Some water conservation measures are easy to initiate and maintain while more severe measures become necessary during dry

spells. Here is a list of some basic things you can do to help conserve water during the drought:

-When buying new appliances look for those with water and energy efficiency certification they will conserve and save you money. This is particularly important for toilets, washing machines, and dishwashers.

-Run the washing machine and dishwasher only when you have a full load.

-Install aerators on faucets to maintain pressure while reducing flows to less than 1 gallon a minute. Install low flow showerheads.

-When washing dishes fill up a rinse basin so that you are not running water while doing dishes.

-Soak dishes in remaining dishwater instead of running water over them to scrape clean.



Lake Mendocino in March

-Compost rather than using a garbage disposal (they can also be problematic for septic systems).

-Defrost food in the refrigerator rather than under running water.

-Minimize the amount of water used to cook food.

-Use a dishpan to wash fruits and vegetables instead of running water.

-Put used ice cubes, rinse water and water used to wash fruits and vegetables on the vegetation instead of down the drain.

-Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

-Use smaller amounts of bathwater and take shorter showers.

-Plug drains while running water for washing and adjust the temperature accordingly as it fills.

-When taking a shower turn off the water while lathering and turn on again to rinse.



-When watering plants water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler and less will be lost to evaporation.

-Use sprinklers only when needed, use efficient sprinklers and make sure they are directed only to the needed areas. Avoid gutter flooding by watering deeply and less often, but not to the point of run off.

-Use organic mulch on plants and trees it will help retain water, prevent weeds and improve soil.

-Choose drought resistant plants for your landscaping or garden.

-Know how much water your plants need and don't overwater.

-Investigate smart controllers if you use an automated watering system. Some water agencies offer rebates.



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-Sweep outdoor areas rather than spraying them down to clean them.

-Use a self-closing nozzle to clean vehicles and pets and where possible use a bucket and sponge rather than continual spraying with the hose.

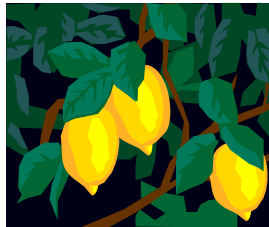
-Invest in a water broom to aerate the water if you have areas outdoors which must be sprayed with water.

-Check indoors and outdoors for leaks regularly. Toilets leaking to the bowl are one of the most common areas for leakage.

Coyote Valley Wellness Day Saturday, April 19 10-2

Informational pamphlets will be available at the Health Fair this

weekend and department staff will be available from 12:30- 2 for questions and to demonstrate making natural all-purpose cleaners. You can take home a sample. Most cleaners can be made from simple ingredients like lemons, baking soda, and vinegar. Informational pamphlets will be available on these safe, effective, natural and inexpensive cleaners. Pamphlets will also be made available on natural pesticides and repellents.



If you are unable to attend and would like any of this information please contact our office and we will make copies available to you.

Remember that using safer more natural cleaners is not only good for the environment, but is also healthier for your family and your pets. Protect your home from harmful toxins by switching to natural products.



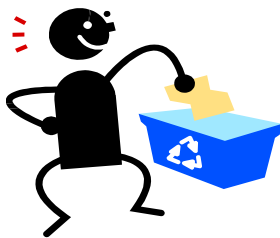
Coyote Valley Earth Day Celebration April 22, 2014, 10-4 at Tribal Offices (Rubio Ranch, 7601 N. State Street)

Our department will be hosting Earth Day celebrations on Tuesday, April 22 in front of the

Tribal Offices. We will be holding the event in the grassy area in front of the administration building. This will be a chance to speak with department staff about any questions, concerns, comments or information you have or wish to have on topics related to the environment. Food and t-shirts will be available. There will be raffle tickets provided for people who bring one days worth of garbage from their household. Please do not include medical waste or large items. Staff will assist in sorting the garbage to see what can be kept out of the landfill to help reduce the solid waste coming from Coyote Valley. You are also invited to bring e-waste for recycling. This includes: televisions, microwaves, cellular phones, dvd/vhs players, video game players, and other computerized electronic devices. Please do not bring appliances.



There will also be demonstrations of water quality testing, the watershed model, and printed information on an assortment of environmental topics will be available. Storytelling will be provided in the afternoon for the children.



We would like to thank our sponsors for making it possible to hold this event for the community:

- CEDCO (Coyote Valley Economic Development Corporation)**
- Coyote Valley Casino**
- Mariposa Market**
- Valley Paving**
- Deep Valley Security**
- Sherwood Valley Rancheria**
- Northern Circle**



A Brief History of Earth Day

The first real consciousness of the environmental degradation that was occurring came to the United States when the 1962 publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson made the *New York Times* bestseller list. Earth Day officially began in 1970 as the modern environmental movement began to gain momentum and the severity of matters became known to the general public. The issue was forced on the National Agenda through the formation of this event by Senator Gaylord Nelson. Later that year the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was formed. Before this there were no environmental protections preventing mass pollution by industry. Earth Day and the movement have made many important changes. Let us keep up the positive work.