



***Virtual Water Symposium: industry experts explain
what's coming down the pipe***

Megan Chery, Senior Associate of Water Practice with Environmental Incentives

Topic: Ongoing water conservation efforts and how it affects HOAs

Bio: Megan Chery is a Water Team Lead at Environmental Incentives with experience working with municipal water supply and storm water teams to develop performance-driven programs that achieve water supply and quality outcomes.

Notes: Cities and counties are tasked with developing storm water programs to improve water quality and ensure safe clean water is reaching our coastal areas. They have their own requirements and must keep pollutants under certain levels. The goal is to eliminate water flow to the beach during dry weather, which is mostly irrigation runoff. The mandates are becoming much more urgent, by the end of year the dry weather goals must be met. Wet weather goals also need to be met – this is what measures the toxins reaching our waterways during the rainy season. Requirements are going to up in the future with assistance along the way, utilize incentives and rebates to:

#1 – Reduce irrigation runoff (smart timers, drip, remove turf, remove turf along hardscape edges)

#2 – Keep stormwater onsite (permeable pavement, bio swales, redirect rain gutters)

Waterscape Rebate Program: San Diego partnership (new incentives for unincorporated San Diego, see chart in video at 13 minutes). Multiple incentives may be offered on one project and can cover as much as 90% of the project costs.

Q: Can we submit a rebate for multiple areas in one application?

A: This will vary based on your area and the rebates that you are applying for, each agency is slightly different.

Lindsey Stuvick, Water Efficiency Manager with MNWD

Topic: Water rebates available, cost of water projections

Bio: Lindsey manages the Water Efficiency Department at Moulton Niguel Water District and serves as the Co-Chair of the Business Development Team for the California Data Collaborative.

Notes: MNWD imports 100% of their water, balancing supply and demand is critical. Start with MNWD for rebates and see what other incentives you can stack on top. Lindsey tracks water district usage to see if it's sustainable. Due to the drought additional regulation is coming soon. Although our water is already highly managed there is additional scrutiny on the horizon. CA is a dry climate; we might as well adjust now while rebates are available. New water restrictions are coming in 2024, prepare and budget today for a smooth transition.



Lake Mead is at its lowest level in recorded history. The worst CA drought in recorded history was 2013-2016 which generated new legislation that requires all water agents to have a budget (all 400 agencies across the state). This hasn't yet happened; everyone must comply by 2024.

The goal is to build drought resilience and get ahead of the game, let's convert lawn that people aren't using and replace with a drought tolerant palette. See video at 32 minutes; MAWA water budget. If the water agencies receive penalties, it will get passed on to the customer. High efficiency can be achieved by replacing urinals, toilets, ice machines, and soil moisture sensors – in addition to weather-based controllers, high efficiency nozzles, and converting spray to drip. Droughts may no longer be cyclical.

SoCAL Water Smart – open to everyone, make a reservation to reserve rebate funds
<https://socalwatersmart.com/>

Andrew Chase with Monarch Environmental

Topic: Five things your HOA should be looking at in the next six months

Bio: Andrew oversees Irrigation and Water Management Services for Monarch Environmental. Andrew has worked in the irrigation industry since 1996.

Notes: An irrigation system shouldn't be considered a one-time installation; we must maintain the equipment to keep it efficient. Routine maintenance is in most contracts and requires follow-up and accountability. As your system ages, make sure things are being replaced like for like. Contractors tend to use parts that are already on the truck. We need to make sure new parts have a pressure regulator (CA law for all spray heads) and check valves for a consistent application across the landscape. When the system shuts off no water should run out from the spray heads. If there is water, then you are missing check valves which means you are losing a lot of water which turns into dry weather runoff. These two components make a huge difference when working towards conservation.

In Orange County alone we have 35 different water agencies. Rebates are available for master valves, flow sensors, and pressure regulation on the main line, all are important for conservation. It's common to find 150psi when only 30psi is necessary; high pressure will wear out parts over time and cause expensive repairs down the road.

Now is a good time to plan for drought requirements on the horizon. For water agencies that have water budgets you may start to see a lower plant factor which requires reduced usage and includes fines. For the eighty percent of water agencies that currently don't have water budgets you may start to see budgets applied to your usage. As Lindsey mentioned, droughts are a thing in CA, and we might as well make changes now with all the available rebates.

Matt Davenport with Monarch Environmental

Topic: Event moderator – Thank you for attending!

Bio: Chief Encouragement Officer