

## Why Save Water

Why do I need to conserve water **NOW**?

1. 80% of Santa Ynez River water, including Cachuma Lake, goes to the South Coast. What's left is shared by the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys.
2. State Water, purchased by the three water entities in our Valley, only provided them with 5% of their water entitlement this year.
3. Both Buellton and Solvang adopted Stage 2 Drought Restrictions.

If you use Solvang water, why is water conservation **EVEN MORE URGENT**?

Water shortage is an even greater possibility than in the rest of the Valley.

1. While both Buellton and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ID #1 have aquifers, Solvang only has a sliver of the eastern aquifer within its city limits.
2. This limits its water from wells and its upland wells are having problems
3. It cannot use its river wells until the annual release of Cachuma water for Santa Ynez River users.
4. No more distant water district has been willing to sell water - though \$675,000 was reserved for purchasing water.

Facing a crisis, the Solvang Drought Stage 2 Regulations Restrictions' financial penalties are being enforced.

1. Single family residential users must reduce their use by 20% from the average of 1,800 cubic feet/month to 1,400 cubic feet/month (14 HCF).
2. Multi-family residential and mobile home users must reduce their monthly use by 10% from 2019 same month use figures.
3. Commercial/industrial/institutional users must reduce their use by 20% from 2019 same month use figures with a \$1,000 penalty being levied for the second month and each additional month if the 20% reduction is not achieved.

The penalties became effective August 1. After a warning month, financial penalties will be on your September bill if you have not conserved enough water.

This is not just a message for Solvang. It is time for each of us to shift from thinking that water is an unlimited or "cheap" resource. Please remember each time you use water:

## Water is precious. How can I save water?

**NOTE: Both the City of Buellton and the City of Solvang are offering landscape rebates to users who want to make water reducing changes to their landscaping. Go online to learn more about these programs:**

[www.cityofbuelltonsustainablelandscaping](http://www.cityofbuelltonsustainablelandscaping)

[www.cityofsolvangwaterconservation](http://www.cityofsolvangwaterconservation)

Nancy Emerson, President, WE Watch (a land use and environmental organization focused on the Santa Ynez Valley)