

Entranosa Water News

April 29, 2016

April Usage. Residential demand this month was 5,000 gallons. April 2015 was just under 6,500 gallons, and in April 2014, usage averaged 6,900 gallons.

Conservation Ordinances. The County's of Santa Fe and Bernalillo have ordinances dealing with water conservation. The ordinances differ, but both provide guidelines for domestic conservation. They apply to YOU, unless you live in the municipality of Edgewood.

Bill Payments and Correspondence Bill payments can be mailed to "Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association, PO Box 95770, Albuquerque, NM 87199". OR – sign up for an automatic draft, save a stamp and don't worry about the postal service! We draft on the 5th, 15th and 20th of each month – call the office for details. Written correspondence should be sent to 1330 NM 333, Tijeras, 87059.

Hardness. Our hardness is averaging about 24 grains, based on our total pumping this past month. A grain is approximately 17.1 milligrams per liter. We anticipate hardness will average 32 grains in May, for much of the water system.

Board Meeting. The Board of Directors will hold its next monthly meeting on the next-to-last Thursday, May 19th at 11:30 a.m. Should you wish to attend, please call to verify the date so we can make proper arrangements and notify you of changes that may occur (i.e. weather).

Leak Adjustment Policy. On the 1st of April we implemented a new leak adjustment policy, which provides insurance coverage for every residential customer. Under the policy, the water bill attributable to a leak during the coverage period will cover your water bill up to \$1000 – less your average monthly bill. A claim may be filed once every 12 months. The fee is \$1.65/meter. Each member can choose to opt out of the coverage. Again – coverage began April 1st. This program does NOT apply to commercial accounts. All commercial accounts should contact the office if they have a leak.

Yard Line Repair Insurance. We also offer repair coverage for yard lines, from the meter to the foundation of the home. This coverage is \$4.00/month but it is optional – so you must choose to be covered – just call 407-8081 (there is a 30 day waiting period), and does NOT includes leaks that started prior to the start of your coverage.

Account information (phone or email) There are times when we need to contact you about a water outage or other water related issue. About 75% of our contact info is current - please help us by updating your contact information, as it changes.

Household Water Pressure. If you have symptoms of high pressure, we'll be glad to check – please call the office.

Annual Meeting and Candidates for Board Elections. The Annual Meeting will be held on September 22nd at the Nature Pointe Community Center. There are three board seats open this year. If you have some time to commit and you're interested in the community - please nominate yourself, or a good neighbor! To do so – send a letter (or drop off a note) at the office with your name, address, phone number and the statement "nominate xxxx for the board of directors". The deadline for nominations is close-of-business on Monday, August 1st.

Call 811 Before You Dig - It IS the Law

Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association
(505) 281-8700 (office) / (505) 604-5935 (emergency)

www.entranosawater.com

Office Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, and Friday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Ordinances on Water Conservation

Our water comes from six wells in the Estancia Basin, where over 90% of the water pumped from the Basin goes to agricultural purposes. Domestic uses (household uses, including landscape irrigation) account for less than five percent of Basin demand (we are about 2%). Some municipalities and counties have enacted ordinances that ‘condition’ the uses of water throughout the state, including the counties of Bernalillo (in 2007) and Santa Fe (in 2002). Both counties declare that ‘water waste’ is a bad thing – and they try to define what that means.

Water is often described as our most precious resource – “Aqua es Vida” (Water is Life). Although it would be difficult, we can live without the modern conveniences (phone, electricity) – but we can’t live without water. While there is sufficient fresh water to meet our needs, you can rarely have enough fresh water in New Mexico. A quick overview of the two county ordinances:

- The Bernalillo County ordinance has more depth, definition and flexibility, and the Santa Fe County ordinance covers a broader scope of activities with less depth and definition. Both ordinances have aspects unique to themselves.
- Both counties exempt agricultural uses from the ordinance – so – 90% of the uses from the Basin are exempt from the requirements of either ordinance. Thus, both ordinances are severely limited with respect to the amount of impact they’ll have on the overall conservation of water in our area, since they are focused on only 10% of the use.
- Both counties prohibit outdoor watering between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. during certain times of the year – with conditions. The prohibition in Bernalillo runs from 1 April to 31 October, while the prohibition in Santa Fe goes from 1 May thru 30 September.
- Both counties require new construction to install low-water-use fixtures. Santa Fe has required that all residences retrofit their fixtures by 1 January 2005.
- Both counties address rain water harvesting, or roof collection. Santa Fe mandates this for all new construction, Bernalillo also requires it unless other measures are taken (so it is an option).
- Both counties prohibit “water waste” and “fugitive” water, the definitions of which (in each county) differ slightly – but if water, from other than precipitation, is running off of your property, it is considered ‘fugitive’ and prohibited by law.
- Both counties have developed a series of penalties for non-compliance, with escalating fines. Bernalillo County has the option of imposing criminal penalties.
- The Bernalillo ordinance makes reference to stages of drought, which will be covered in a future drought ordinance, yet to be drafted. (We have developed our own drought management plan.)

We believe conservation is an integral part of water management – for us, for local government, and for the state. East mountain residents (from the mountains and into the plains) use less water per capita than their neighbors in Albuquerque because life styles, land uses and commercial activities are different. Our community has a great respect for water and an awareness for the need (and the ways) to conserve water. “Conservation” is a complicated policy issue; the ordinances and the space available to us in this newsletter cannot do it justice – but we hope this is somewhat helpful. Aqua es Vida. Should you have questions – we’ll be pleased to help where we can and help you find an answer.