

# Entranosa Water News

April 28, 2017

**April Consumption.** Residential demand this month was about normal, with the nice weather, and averaged just over 5,100 gallons. In April 2016, average usage was 5,000 gallons and in April 2015 was 6,500 gallons.

**Drought.** The US Drought Monitor shows significant increases in the drought posture across the State, with 55% of the State being ‘abnormally dry’ (including Bernalillo and Santa Fe County’s) or in ‘moderate drought’. The forecast through June 2017 is for increasing levels of drought along the eastern border of the State, but the rest of the State will be ‘normal’.

**Hardness.** We measured 17 grains of hardness at the office on April 27<sup>th</sup>, but there are variations throughout the System. Hardness levels in May will increase, and generally range between 20 and 30 grains – as the weather improves, demand will increase, as will hardness, as we have to pump more from the more mineralized aquifers. A grain is equivalent to 17.1 milligrams per liter.

**Board Meeting.** The Board of Directors will hold its next monthly meeting on the next-to-last Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Should you wish to attend, please call to verify the date so we can make proper arrangements and to notify you of changes that may occur (i.e. weather or schedule).

**Yard Line Repair Insurance.** We offer insurance coverage to repair or replace leaking yard lines that are located between the meter and the foundation of the home or structure. This coverage is \$4.00/month but it is optional - you must choose to be covered – just call 407-8081. (there is a 30 day waiting period).

**County Water Conservation Ordinances.** Water hours are in affect pursuant to Bernalillo and Santa Fe County ordinances. We hope the blurb on the reverse side is helpful.

**Bill Payment – Automatic Payment Authorization.** From time to time, bill payments are subject to delays associated with one, or all, of the following – delay in mailing, delay in payment from the bank, postal processing delay, or delay in receipt processing. Regardless of cause, a late fee accrues to payments received after the deadline. One option to ensure timely payment is an automatic payment authorization, and there is no charge for this service. We offer three options on withdrawal dates (5<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of each month), and an authorization can be withdrawn at any time, by you. Call the office for details or assistance. You also have the option of calling 505-596-9086 to pay with a credit card.

**Office Closure** – The office will be closed on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in observation of Memorial Day.

Call Before You Dig – 811 – It is the Smart Thing to Do AND It’s the Law

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

[www.entranosawater.com](http://www.entranosawater.com)

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday 8:00am – 4:30pm, Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm

## 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.

**Call 811 BEFORE you dig ... it is safer, and it IS the Law**

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