






EVERY DROP COUNTS

WAYS YOU CAN SAVE:

 TURN OFF WATER WHEN BRUSHING TEETH OR SHAVING
saves
 **10 GALLONS**
per person/day

 TAKE FIVE MINUTE SHOWERS INSTEAD OF 10 MINUTE SHOWERS
saves
 **12.5 GALLONS**
with a water efficient showerhead

 FIX LEAKY TOILETS
saves
 **30-50 GALLONS**
per day/toilet

 WASH ONLY FULL LOADS
saves
 **15-45 GALLONS**
per load

Save Our Water 



Striving for Excellence

Drought Assistance Information

Merced County Drought Hotline: 209-726-2705

www.co.merced.ca.us/savewater



CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS:

Over the past four years, California has faced one of the most severe droughts on record. With below average rainfall in 2015, the drought is continuing with no immediate relief in sight. Surface water has been depleted, placing greater demand on groundwater resources. Declining groundwater levels have led to a significant number of well failures across the County.

As a result of the ongoing drought conditions, Governor Edmund G. Brown



Jr. declared a State of Emergency on January 17, 2014. Subsequently, the Merced County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the existence of a local emergency due to the drought on February 25, 2014. The County

has since taken steps to address groundwater conditions and provide relief to individuals lacking water due to well failure.

Various assistance information from the County of Merced and the State of California is included in this brochure.

EMERGENCY WATER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM:

On July 7, 2015, the Merced County Board of Supervisors approved an Emergency Water Distribution Plan to provide temporary water supplies for Merced County residents who have had wells go dry resulting from the drought. The non-potable water would be provided for health and sanitation purposes at a rate of 50 gallons per person per day. Bottled water for drinking and cooking is also available at the rate of one gallon per person per day. The non-potable water would be delivered and pumped into a temporary water system located on the subject property.

To apply for temporary water delivery, residents must:

1. Have the well verified as dry (this can be done through a well driller or pump company)
2. Have applied for a new well permit.
3. Have completed and submitted the application for temporary water delivery.

For more details about the Merced County Water Distribution Program or to apply for services online, visit:

• www.co.merced.ca.us/savewater

If you have any questions, please call:

• **209-726-2705**

LOW INTEREST LOANS AND FINANCING OPTIONS:

There are programs available through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide low-interest loan financing and other funding options to qualifying individuals who have experienced well failure. Opportunities are also available to assist businesses and rural communities.

Those who may qualify for assistance include rural communities whose water supplies are at risk, food banks that anticipate increased demand, agricultural producers wanting to offset irrigation costs, homeowners that need help drilling a new well or connecting to a public water system, and others.

Homeowners and businesses looking for additional details regarding low-interest loan opportunities can contact the USDA Rural Development Office at:

• **209-722-4119 ext. 4**

STATE REBATE PROGRAM:

For information about toilet and turf replacement rebates, please visit:

• www.saveourwaterrebates.com

Anyone interested in utilizing the program can apply on the website listed above.