



viewpoints

Winter 2008

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Water Supply Under Stress in Southern California

The Helix Water District has declared a Level 1 Drought Watch, asking consumers to reduce their water use by ten percent, because water supplies are under stress.

Water supplies across Southern California are strained for a number of reasons: First, dry year conditions throughout Southern California; Second, snowpack in the Sierras has produced less than average runoff, leaving reservoirs standing well below capacity; Third, drought in the Colorado River Basin for eight of the past nine years—Lakes Powell and Meade are half full; Fourth the “Wanger Decision,” a judicial ruling that restricts pumping water from Northern California through the Bay Delta to Southern California—the ruling cuts the amount of

water flowing south by one third to protect four endangered fish species.

Even if we have a great rainy season this winter, next spring the San Diego County Water Authority, Helix's major water wholesaler, is anticipating cutbacks in water allotments from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD is the purveyor of water to most of Southern California. MWD owns and operates the major aqueduct systems that bring water to San Diego. We rely on them for about 72% of the water we use in San Diego. While we cannot be sure of the extent of the cutbacks until after the winter precipitation, we know that currently reservoirs throughout the state, and particularly those that serve



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Allison Henderson

President's Corner

By the time this Winter issue of Viewpoints reaches you, to borrow the campaign slogans of the two nominees, we will have either the “change we need” or the “leadership we need.” Whichever way the election goes, one thing is for certain—changes are in store for our country. I would like to showcase another slogan: all politics is local! It is the changes occurring in our neighborhood that we tend to notice first. Here at GMIA, we keep track of any and all changes that will affect us as homeowners

and neighbors. First and foremost, we are deeply involved in land use, code enforcement, and traffic issues. But, in this Viewpoints, two other concerns of paramount importance are discussed: water conservation and crime prevention. With the holiday season upon us, a few reminders and tips about prevention are in order. We provide some interesting law enforcement websites for you to find out what is happening in Mt. Helix.

About the water issue: As all homes within the GMIA boundary classify as being on large lots (especially compared to the beach areas), and most have extensive landscaping, what happens regionally with our water supply will have a direct impact on our neighborhood’s community character. Remember how often we complain when a neighbor doesn’t mow or water or beautify; without water, our entire neighborhood would look more like the vacant or foreclosed homes and halfway houses we wish didn’t exist! The bottom line: if we don’t start conserving A LOT and start NOW, our beautiful gardens are at risk. I, for one, am not looking forward to giving up my front lawn. So, read inside about how you can start saving gallons of our most precious resource.

As always, contact us through gmia.net for any questions, comments or suggestions for future newsletters.

Your Prez, Allison Henderson ▲

Are You a Garden Fanatic?

GMIA’s Garden Tour committee is looking for a few volunteers to help with the next garden tour.

Green thumbs not required!

Please contact Garden Tour coordinator Susan Nichols at (619) 440-1607 or email her at lsnnichols@cox.net.



What's in YOUR Back Yard?

In the second in our series of animals in Mt. Helix, we offer readers photos of absolutely adorable pygmy goats! Longtime GMIA neighbors, the Frasier, live on an acre and a half and raise pygmy goats, horses and chickens. According to Ms. Frasier, the large parcel size was the most important feature in deciding to buy their Mt. Helix house.

In real life, Ms. Frasier is a California certified court reporter and owns a tack shop in El Cajon. As she states, "I've always been involved in horses and other animals, so that's a fun job!" She is also a licensed NPGA (National Pygmy Goat Association) judge and a assistant leader for 4H in the pygmy goat project.

Ms. Frasier became involved with pygmy goats in 2000 after adopting an orphan goat. She added two registered NPGA does (females) a year later and began showing and raising a few goats. Though she doesn't breed very much owing to time and space issues, she does raise a few babies each year that go to 4H kids or to families as pets.

Pygmy goats, originally from Africa, were imported in the late 50's as exotic animals by people such as Randolph Hearst. They are genetic dwarfs, not miniatures, with disproportionately small limbs in relation to their body size. They mature at 35-50 lbs and stand smaller than 25". They are smart and very personable. Because of their size, they are perfect first projects for youngsters involved in 4H. If you'd like more information about them visit the NPGA website at www.npga-pygmy.com.



2nd Annual Walk to the Park

**Walk up to the Park
Won't it be fine
Say Goodbye to '08
And Hello to '09!**

WHEN: Sat., Jan. 10, 2009
TIME: 9:00 am
WHERE: Park at lot by Fire Station on Vivera and stroll up to the amphitheater
WHY: To mingle with neighbors



CRIME from page 3

Recommended Crime Prevention Websites

Arjis.org—Automated Regional Justice Information System: crime maps and statistic for San Diego County (see example of crime map on page 3 using incidents occurring near the Avocado Blvd. and Fuerte Drive intersection)

Ncpc.org—National Crime Prevention Council: info on crime prevention through environmental design, neighborhood watch, conflict resolution, and more.

Meganslaw.ca.gov: registered sex offenders website. ▲

Tips on Neighborhood Watch from the National Crime Prevention Council

Work with the sheriff's office. This is critical to a Watch group's credibility and is also the source of necessary information and training.

Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to decide upon program strategies and activities.

Ask people who seldom leave their homes to be "window watchers," looking out for children and reporting any unusual activities in the neighborhood.

Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots contribute to crime. Sponsor cleanups, encourage residents to beautify the area, and ask them to turn on outdoor lights at night.

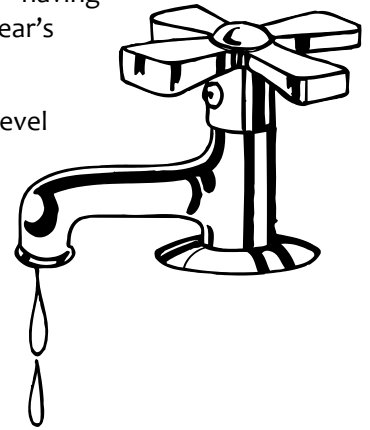
Gather the facts about crime in your neighborhood. Check police reports, conduct victimization surveys, and learn residents' perceptions about crimes. Often, residents' opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce the fear of crime.

WATER from page 1

San Diego, are at very low levels—having been drawn down to meet this year's demand.

So, at this time Helix's Drought Level -1 asks residents to take these conservation steps:

1. Stop washing down paved surfaces.
2. Stop water waste from landscape irrigation runoff.
3. Irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only.
4. Use a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or bucket to water non-irrigated areas.
5. Use re-circulated water to operate ornamental fountains.
6. Wash vehicles using a bucket and a hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle.
7. Serve and refill water in restaurants and other food service establishments only upon request.
8. Offer guests in hotels, motels the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.
9. Repair all water leaks within five (5) days of notification by the Helix Water District.



Conservation is the primary tool to keep our locale from even more severe consequences. Landscape water use is 60-70% of all water use and is the area where we can save the most. We encourage Helix customers to visit the Water Conservation Garden on the grounds of Cuyamaca College for great ideas about outdoor water savings and classes to show homeowners exactly how to accomplish their goals. For more information visit: www.thegarden.org.

In addition, Helix has a large number of programs to help customers save water. Rebates on high efficiency toilets and clothes washers, weather based "smart" irrigation controllers, rotating irrigation nozzles, artificial turf (1-888-376-3314); FREE low-flow shower heads, residential and commercial surveys, landscape audits, and water budget planning; and access to Smart Landscape Grants for large sites (619.667.6202).

For all the details of Helix's conservation program, visit: www.hwd.com. ▲

Katharine Auld Breece
Public Affairs Manager, Helix Water District

GROSSMONT - MT. HELIX



IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Grossmont- Mt. Helix Improvement Association (GMIA) is one of the oldest and largest association of its type in San Diego County. It was formed in 1938 as a result of community concern for the lack of adequate land use planning and zoning type requirements. It is a non-profit public benefit corporation that represents thousands of families residing in the large unincorporated area of the County that is east of Bancroft Drive, south of El Cajon, generally north of SR94 and Rancho San Diego, and west of SR54/Jamacha Rd. The GMIA area contains over 7,000 single-family residences with a population approximating 20,000 people.

The primary mission of GMIA is to work on behalf of all GMIA community members to ensure that the quality and character of our community is preserved and enhanced. Unlike a typical "homeowners association,"

GMIA does not own any property or facilities, nor is it responsible for any property maintenance. GMIA is served by an elected, unpaid Board of Directors and has no paid officers or employees. The GMIA Board works with County and regional governmental entities to help resolve issues that impact our community such as transportation systems, traf-

fic control, planning and land use, zoning, code enforcement, as well as crime prevention and law enforcement.

GMIA invites and encourages all residents in our membership area to become active members and to support the efforts of the GMIA Board to preserve and enhance the character and lifestyle that are currently enjoyed in our wonderful community.

For more information on GMIA, please visit our website at www.GMIA.net ■