

Because the Mendocino Board of Supervisors is the Board of Directors of the Mendocino County Water Agency, and because your "role includes... Providing the public with information regarding water resources in Mendocino County" I am sending you these methods for reducing water consumption. They can be used by everyone. They are very inexpensive, and the results are effective immediately! I am aware that the board of Supervisors just approved an initial estimated cost of \$3,840,000 for trucking raw water from Ukiah to the Summers Lane reservoir in Fort Bragg to be treated from where it will then be trucked to Mendocino. Although this might be deemed necessary, there is a fallacy to the logic. Per your website, water reserves in Mendocino's lakes, and all our water resources, are at an unprecedented low.

We have come to the point where we simply must conserve if we don't want to run out of water altogether (as some residents already have). We cannot assume that Lake Mendocino can fill our water deficit. We cannot indulge in the less than conscious hope that it will fill up again this "winter". We have no way of determining how or how long our Water Emergency will play out, simply because Climate Change is not something that we alone can change. So, I am contributing a means of reducing our water consumption. It can reduce H₂O consumption by as much as people are willing to. This extends the life of the small amount of relief our lakes (and desalination plant, and trucks) can provide.

When I coordinated the grant funded "HELP Plus" and "HELP H₂O" water and energy conservation programs for the City of Fort Bragg, I found that people are eager to cooperate if they simply know how. What they need to know is "how much", and "how" they are using water. Then, most importantly, they need to be given a means of conserving it. The solution must be accessible, affordable, and reliable. I recently designed a DIY "Weekly Water Worksheet". By using it people can assess their own water use, in their own home. I have attached it here. It is essential that it be accompanied by a narrative including recommendations and devices** that will reduce water consumption for each of the water uses addressed. The most high impact solutions for water conservation are simply changes in habits, which cost nothing!

It is my goal to have this "Weekly Water Worksheet" distributed, and used, as widely as possible. Please forward my "Weekly Water Worksheet" to staff members who can facilitate its approval for distribution, via email and the website. I look forward to feedback on it, so that I can complete the Narrative and make it ready for distribution ASAP.

Thank you!
Shelley Coben

"Weekly Water Worksheet"

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KJ5_VIKAX0qkKCJdO4uOFEf11XN0G-YiOBCQ0LUkDuw/edit?usp=sharing

** I highly recommend a pressure sensitive, **auto shut-off**, Aerator for the bathroom faucet. The flow of water shuts off when it reaches a certain level of pressure in the faucet. It can turn down the flow to seconds worth, depending on the pressure level set by the consumer. It's easily re-started by a push-button on the end of the aerator.

This device certainly teaches, and causes, water conservation behaviors at the sink! It doesn't entail a new faucet, or plumber expense, it has no electric eye or timer, so at \$16.00 it's accessible to most people. Ace Hardware makes one such product: "EZ touch Aerator" #4564019.

<https://www.acehardware.com/departments/plumbing/faucet-and-faucet-repair/faucet-aerators/4564019>

Ace offers water conservation devices for the shower also. These valves let you reduce or shut off the flow while you lather. The water will still be warm when you turn it back on!

This replacement showerhead offers high velocity and has a valve to reduce, or stop, the flow.

-- "Whedon SaverShower Chrome Brass 2 settings" USB4C, Ace #45992

https://www.acehardware.com/departments/plumbing/tub-and-shower/shower-heads/45992?store=08393&gclid=Cj0KCQjwu7OIBhCsARIsALxCUaP6p2Op8JVDQxRzVsQGgmnOyaomXYtYzrCt5XELctUifmhEqbngep0aAgdMEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

Existing shower heads can be adapted with this shower flow control "trickle valve". Just remove the existing head, screw this inline control valve onto the incoming shower "arm" and screw the old shower head onto the control valve.

-- "Ace Chrome Shower Flow Control"

<https://www.acehardware.com/departments/plumbing/tub-and-shower/shower-head-accessories/40084>

Whedon also makes an adapter for existing shower heads: "trickle valve" #TV1C.