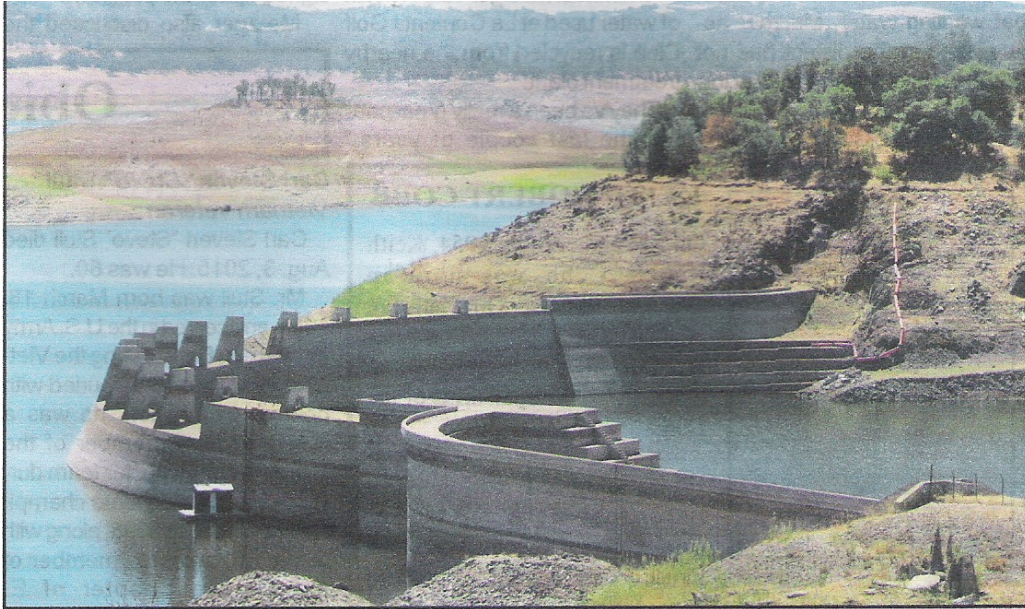


# Area first in line for Hogan's water

By Nick Baptista, The Valley Springs News, Wednesday August 26, 2015



*The original Hogan Dam becomes more visible as the drought continues.*

Although the lake level at New Hogan Reservoir continues to recede as California experiences a fourth straight year of drought, Calaveras County Water District residents in La Contenta and Rancho Calaveras can rest assured their communities “will not be a ghost town.”

CCWD Customer Relations Manager Joel Metzger addressed drought-related water issues at last Wednesday's luncheon meeting of the Valley Springs Area Business Association and said agreements are in place to make sure the water left in New Hogan is distributed locally.

The reservoir is at 12 percent of capacity, he told the audience, and those agreements protect the existing water in times of drought.

Annually, CCWD uses between 3,000 to 3,500 acre-feet of water from the reservoir, he added. The reservoir had 10 times that amount as of Monday – 36,494 acre-feet.

The bulk of New Hogan's water goes to Stockton East Water District, which has rights to 56.5 percent of the reservoir's yield.

California's latest drought is nearly unprecedented.

Looking back scientifically, Metzger said, the state has not seen a drought of this magnitude since 900 A.D.

Water conservation measures have been mandated statewide to ease the impact of the drought and efforts locally have been successful.

“You guys have just been incredible,” he said about CCWD customers’ conservation measures, as the district has seen reductions up to 40 percent the past three months.

Those restrictions have eased somewhat and customers with vegetable gardens and fruit trees now have the option to water an extra day a week, and the third day is at their choice, Metzger said.

Although fines and criminal prosecution have been established as legal methods to combat wasting water, Metzger acknowledged the district has not had to pursue those options at this time.

In addition, CCWD is distributing water conservation supplies such as shower timers, hose timers, faucet aerators and soil moisture sensors. Those items can be obtained for free locally at Sender’s Market Ace Hardware in Valley Springs, he said.

“Just say ‘I’m a CCWD customer’ and they’ll give you one of everything.”

While watering for recreational purposes during the drought has been limited, Metzger said the bulk of water used at La Contenta Golf Club is recycled from the nearby treatment plant.

“They’ve been a really great partner the last couple of years,” Metzger said of the golf course.

CCWD even has a program for non-customers, those on wells, who firsthand are experiencing the downside of the drought.

Non-district customers who have dry wells can sign up and pay a \$10-a-month fee to obtain bulk water from the CCWD water treatment plant or near the Jenny Lind fore station, Metzger said. In all, about 100 people have signed up for the program.

Metzger also discussed the California Department of Water Resources’ rebate programs for turf and toilets. CCWD customers can qualify for the turf rebate, because the district has not offered any turf rebates the past two years. For more information on rebates, visit [www.saveourwaterrebates.com](http://www.saveourwaterrebates.com).

The downside of water conservation, he added, has been less revenue coming into the water district, “a big budget gap,” which will be a matter for future discussions.