

Spring 2023

Volume 10, Issue 1

## Quick Notes:

- Question about your bill?  
Email us: [Accounts@psh2o.com](mailto:Accounts@psh2o.com)
- Moving? Selling?  
Be sure to let us know!
- Are you struggling to pay your bill?  
Contact Us!
- Payments are due by the 20th of each month and are subject to a late fee if not paid on time.
- You can always drop your payment in the green drop box, located next to the mailboxes beside 2255 Redwood Drive.

**IMPORTANT RATE  
CHANGE NOTICE IS  
ENCLOSED IN YOUR  
BILL THIS MONTH**

## DROUGHT & WEATHER LINKS

### U.S. Drought Monitor:

[www.drought.gov/states/california/county/santa%20cruz](http://www.drought.gov/states/california/county/santa%20cruz)

### Day by Day Rainfall Data for Santa Cruz:

[www.weathercat.net/  
wxraindetail.php](http://www.weathercat.net/wxraindetail.php)



### National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center:

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/  
products/expert\\_assessment/  
sdo\\_summary.php](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php)

## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

As a public water system, PureSource Water is required by the California Code of Regulations to conduct a Cross Connection Control Survey, which we did in 2019. Periodically we update the information from that survey and/or request additional information from you. The regulations and guidelines are currently being updated by the State. In the future, we will be required to do a more in-depth survey. In the meantime, here is some information for you.

**What are cross-connections?** Cross-connections are actual and potential unprotected connections between a potable water system and any source containing unapproved water or a substance which is not safe. Certain circumstances, for example, a large break in the water main or use of fire hydrants, could create backflow into the drinking water system. Some examples of possible cross-connections are:

1. Improperly installed irrigation systems which may allow back siphoning of stagnant, potentially unsafe water into the domestic piping system.
2. Improperly plumbed water-using devices such as hot tubs, fountains, ponds, water troughs, etc. which could allow unsafe water back into the water system.
3. Irrigation systems served by an auxiliary source, such as a private well or creek. Such systems create a potential for serious contamination of the public water system via interties with the domestic piping system.

If you have any of the following, you may need to install a backflow prevention device. However, if your item was installed by a licensed professional, then likely it was installed per the Universal Plumbing Code, so likely not an issue.

- \_Sprinkler or Drip Irrigation System
- \_Pool/Hot Tub/Spa
- \_Solar Water Heating System
- \_Greywater System
- \_Water Fountain
- \_Fire Sprinklers
- \_Water Treatment System
- \_Water Storage Tank
- \_Rainwater Catchment System
- \_Pond or Animal Trough

If you have questions about any of these, or any possible cross connections, you can contact us. We may be able to help you evaluate the situation.

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## ALL THIS RAIN and RUNOFF!!!

### How Can You Help Slow It, Spread It, Sink It!?!

Phone: 831-688-8476  
email:accounts@psh2o.com

With all this rain, you may be thinking... how can I help get this water into the ground, instead of running off? Well there are ways you can help, but you need to be careful how you do that. Often, the best intentions lead to undesired consequences when it comes to drainage on people's properties. It is wise to consult an engineer when making decisions about stormwater runoff and be sure to follow any County Planning requirements or guidelines.

For many years, the practice was to move water away quickly, typically piping it to drains and culverts. The latest information from the County Planning Dept, and the Resource Conservation District, recommends slowing the runoff and spreading it out in planted areas, gardens, or over other pervious surfaces, thereby allowing the water to sink into the ground.

Of course, as mentioned above, you want to do this properly so you don't damage your home, your property, or a neighbor's property. You certainly want to move water away from your home and other buildings, so as not to damage them, but where you direct that water can make a difference in "sinking" the water into the ground as opposed to letting it run off, potentially causing damage.

The Resource Conservation District has a great publication for homeowners. You can access the publication online here: <https://www.rcdsantacruz.org/images/brochures/pdf/HomeDrainageGuide.v25.pdf> Or pick up a copy at the County of Santa Cruz; Public Works Department, located at: 701 Ocean Street #410, Santa Cruz.

## HOW TO AVOID A HOSE CROSS CONNECTION

*Do not allow a hose to be submerged in water that may contain contaminants.*

Allow a two inch (2") air gap or open area between the mouth of the hose and the object you are distributing water to. See the bullet list for common examples of objects susceptible to cross connection. See examples to the right.

- insecticide sprayer
- hot tubs/spas
- pressure washers
- radiator
- soaker hoses
- soapy or chemical filled buckets
- swimming pools
- or anywhere a hose may be exposed to liquids not suitable for drinking.



## FUN CORNER—Springtime Gardening



Native Plants have evolved to thrive in our climate without a whole lot of extra work or water. Here is one native plant you may want to include in your landscaping so you can spend less time watering.

**Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*):** There is a reason for the name given to Monte Toyon Camp! Toyon is a beautiful native plant that grows well in our neighborhood. It is versatile and can be grown as a hedge or a shrub, or even in a container (although it may be happier in the ground and require less watering). Toyon has bright red berries and evergreen foliage and is easy to grow. It has beautiful white clusters of flowers, and the berries provide food for birds and other wildlife.

The California Native Plant Society has great gardening resources. Check them out here: <https://www.cnps.org/gardening>