



Trinidad Bay Watershed News

What about the Drought?

Page 1 February 2014 www.trinidadwatersheds.org

~Working together to improve the watersheds from the hills to the Trinidad Bay~

The Trinidad Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) is pleased to share news from the Trinidad Bay Watersheds. We received some nice rain in December and February, however the drought is not over yet. California is still in one of the most severe droughts in recorded history.

This edition of the Trinidad Bay Watershed News provides you with a variety of information to help you prepare for the next dry season and alleviate some of the impacts due to the historic drought facing California and out Trinidad Bay coastal watersheds.

Trinidad Bay Watersheds

In this Issue

Drought Information & Solutions

- ◇ Drought Resources
- ◇ Water Conservation
- ◇ Water Storage
- ◇ Featured TBWC Partner:

**Trinidad Coastal
Land Trust**

After a couple of good storms in February, the rainy North Coast and our Trinidad Bay Watersheds have moved from “extreme drought” to “severe drought” status. This means that levels of groundwater, soil moisture and waterways are still impacted. To “get out of the drought” we would need above average rainfall this rainy season to replenish the soil moisture and groundwater. If the drought continues, water supplies could again be threatened this summer and fall. Many of the local people who get their water from household and private systems could again face water shortages. Find out how you can improve your water security with water conservation and water storage. See the tips and resources on pages 2 & 3—the rainy season is the right time to get ready for the dry months.

City of Trinidad Stormwater Project Construction Completed

Construction of the City’s Phase I stormwater system improvements have now been completed. The Stormwater Improvement project included installation of chambers below the roadway and grassy permeable paved parking bio-swale areas to collect, treat and infiltrate the City stormwater runoff in the upper portion of Trinidad. The purpose of this Prop. 84 funded project is to reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff from entering into the Trinidad Bay Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The reduction in volume of stormwater discharged to the bay helps the City to comply with the requirements of the California Ocean Plan prohibition of discharging trash & pollutants into the ASBS, which includes the kelp beds in Trinidad Bay. Phase II of the Stormwater Improvement Project will address the stormwater system which collects runoff in the lower part of the City.

In early 2015, the City will begin to develop a funding proposal for the Phase II of the Stormwater Management Improvement Project. If you would like to stay informed about the Stormwater Project or other City Projects, please contact Becky Price-Hall at: rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov or by phone at (707) 499-6454.

The mission of the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council is to work collaboratively to improve and maintain the watersheds, coastal waters and communities in the Trinidad and Westhaven area for the benefit of all community members.



Why should we think about conserving water when we're in the middle of the rainy season?



For more information & water saving tips visit save.ourh2o.org

- 1) **Saving Money:** Conserving water saves money spent on water (on your water bill or water system) and saves money on energy for heating water for the hot water tap.
- 2) **Improving our watersheds:** Reducing our water use increases the amount of water available to restore soil moisture, recharge groundwater supplies and improve creek flows.
- 3) **Rural Californians don't waste.**

Statewide Emergency Water Conservation Measures

Statewide Emergency Conservation Measures for all water systems have been adopted by the State to reduce water waste in California. The following uses of potable water are prohibited by State Law unless there is an immediate health and safety concern.

1. Allowing potable water to flow beyond the limits of your yard, landscaping, or over a hard surface when watering;
2. Letting the water run while washing a motor vehicle;
3. Using potable water to wash driveways and sidewalks; and
4. Using potable water to operate a decorative fountain or other water feature where the water is not re-circulated.

Violations of these conservation measures are enforceable and can be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per day. Contact your water supplier (Trinidad or WCSD) for additional information.

We are requesting that water customers limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf to no more than 2 days per week.

This message is brought to you in partnership by:



Westhaven Community
Services District

TRINIDAD BAY WATERSHED NEWS



Drought Issue February 2015 Page 3

*It takes all of us to keep our watersheds beautiful
and flowing with clear, cold water.*

Conserving Water in Your Yard and Garden

Prioritize plants – focus your watering on plants that are valuable in terms of replacement cost, prominence in the landscape, and enjoyment. Higher priority should be young trees and shrubs, fruit and nut trees, and small fruits and vegetables.

Set up a drip irrigation system, which can use up to 80% less water. Irrigate early in the morning for further water savings.

Mulch! 3-4" of mulch around plants to keep weeds down, conserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperatures. Mulching reducing irrigation need by around 50%.

Add compost to your soil to improve the water-holding capacity during dry weather and promote good drainage during wet weather.

If purchasing new plants, plant those that require less water. Remember that all plants require water to become established (CA Natives included).

Conserving Water in Your Home

Find and stop leaks.

Replace your old toilet, the largest water user inside your home. If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet.

Replace your clothes washer, the second largest water user in your home. Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load.

While washing up or waiting for the hot water to reach the tap, place a pan or small bucket or pan under the faucet or showerhead to catch the water. This water can be used to water plants in the house or yard.

Run water only when using it — not while brushing teeth, shaving or washing counters.

Consider installing a grey water system

Keep showers short – Use a timer

For More Drought Information and Resources:

See the TBWC Website Drought page - www.trinidadwatersheds.org/drought

Save Our Water: <http://www.saveourh2o.org/>

Home Water Works – calculate your water usage, compare it to others, and learn ways to start conserving: <http://www.home-water-works.org/>

North Coast California Native Plant Society's [Gardening with Native Plants](http://www.salmoncreekwater.org/conservation-strategies.html)

<http://www.salmoncreekwater.org/conservation-strategies.html>

<http://mkwc.org/programs/foodsheds/resources/water-security/>

<http://dailyacts.org/laundry-landscape-system-overview/>

California's Drought Information Clearinghouse Drought.ca.gov



February 20, 2015

Conditions for 95570



Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Working together to improve our watersheds from the Hills to the Trinidad Bay



Trinidad Bay Watershed News

What about the Drought?

Page 4 February 2014 www.trinidadwatersheds.org

~Working together to improve the watersheds from the hills to the Trinidad Bay~

TBWC Calendar

TBWC 2015 Quarterly Meetings

Monday April 20

Monday July 20

Monday October 19

Meeting time 6:30—8:30 pm

All are welcome to join our meetings.

For more information contact:

Becky Price-Hall (707) 499-6454

rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov

www.trinidadwatersheds.org

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

says THANK YOU to all our partners!

- ◇ City of Trinidad
- ◇ Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- ◇ GHD
- ◇ Redwood Community Action Agency
- ◇ Streamline Planning
- ◇ Madrone Enterprises
- ◇ Green Diamond Resource Company
- ◇ Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
- ◇ Westhaven CSD
- ◇ CA State Parks
- ◇ Bureau of Land Management
- ◇ Humboldt State University & Telsonicher Marine Lab

TBWC Featured Watershed Partner:

Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (TCLT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting for the public benefit the natural beauty and character of Humboldt County from Little River to Big Lagoon.

Funding to TCLT for acquisition of the Green Diamond property at the mouth of Little River was approved at the October meeting of the State Coastal Conservancy Board. This property includes a segment of the proposed Little River Trail and provides the opportunity for a pedestrian only bypass option to the California Coastal Trail as well as trails to the seldom visited beach on the east side of Little River. The Little River Trail Project is on hold for the moment. TCLT is encouraging Trinidad-Westhaven-McKinleyville residents to express their support and desire to the County to raise the priority of this trail in the County's ranking. The Little River Trail does not face the political or physical obstacles that the Arcata-Eureka Trail and Annie - Mary Trail face but they are considered higher priorities. Public support for the Little River Trail will help raise its priority level.

TCLT is also in discussions with Green Diamond about the possibility of accepting a public access easement to Strawberry Rock and a conservation easement for 17 acres of forest around the rock. Green Diamond is discussing the project with potential funding sources but nothing definite has been decided. TCLT is assessing the proposed trail alignment and the TCLT Board is supportive of accepting the easement if funding can be secured.

TCLT has embarked on a fund raising campaign to complete the Simmons Gallery - Land Trust Room. The room is an addition to the north side of the recently completed Trinidad Library, which sits in Saunders Park, a 3-acre property gifted to the Land Trust by Glen and Janice Saunders and the home of the Trinidad Museum and the Trinidad Library. The addition has been framed in but the Land Trust needs to raise \$60,000 to complete it. Since its inception in 1979, the Land Trust has not had an office space and as it has taken on more properties it needs a place for the safe-keeping of title and easement documents, and a place to meet. The Land Trust has leased out the Simmons House, left to the Land Trust by the late Ned Simmons to the Trinidad Art Group. The Simmons Gallery - Land Trust Room will serve both as a gallery where local artists can display their work and an office and meeting room for the Land Trust. For more information contact info@TrinidadCoastalLandTrust.org.

The Trinidad Bay Watershed Council is supported in part through grants awarded by the CA Department of Conservation Watershed Program and the CA State Water Resources Control Board Prop 84 Area of Special Biological Significance Grant Program.