

News Release



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WATER CONSERVATION CORPS DEVELOPED BY FOOTHILL MWD; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Foothill Municipal Water District (Foothill) and its eight retail member agencies in the foothills area have developed a Water Conservation Corps enlisting community volunteers to assist in broad based conservation efforts.

Foothill General Manager Nina Jazmadarian said the effort is a new concept in involving everyone in the community as California continues in a multi-year drought. "Even with normal snow and rainfall this coming winter season," Jazmadarian said, "Southern California will continue to be exposed to the potential of water shortages."

"It is important," she said, "that everyone in all of our communities be part of strong water conservation efforts. We think enlisting the direct assistance of enthusiastic members of the community to reach out to their peers will help us spread the message that conservation now and in the future are critical to meeting everyone's basic water needs."

Volunteers who sign up with Foothill or their local retailers can expect to spend ten hours a month working in various phases of the program. Jazmadarian said volunteers would first receive training in Southern California's water sources, indoor and outdoor water conservation techniques and methods of reaching others in the community.

Following the training, volunteers may work in Foothill's headquarters compiling and interpreting water use data or may make presentations to various clubs and organizations in the community as well as other outreach activities.

“One thing we are going to ask is that these volunteers observe what is going on in their neighborhoods regarding water use,” Jazmadarian said. “If our Water Conservation Corps notices water running off lawns into the gutter or other wasteful practices, they would report the details to either Foothill or their local retailer. That agency will then send a friendly letter to water waster asking them to change their habits. We do not want our volunteers confronting anyone nor do want them to become what some have called ‘water police’.”

Foothill and its retail agencies will be assisted in this effort by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the area's major wholesaler of water imported from the Colorado River and from the California State Water Project. If successful, Jazmadarian said, the program could be expanded throughout Metropolitan's service area in Southern California.

Those interested in becoming a Water Conservation Corps docent can call their local retailer, contact Foothill, or go to Foothill's website at www.fmwd.com for more information and a short application form.

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