



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Green Paper: Redirecting Gray Laundry Water to Our Gardens

Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Last year, 95% of the State was in severe drought and 60% in extreme drought. Currently, with the abundant snow and rain the winter offered, 34% of the state is in abnormally dry condition and 9% is in moderate drought (<https://www.drought.gov/states/california>). 20% of San Diego County is experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Water conservation is still very much a topic of actuality.

There are many steps that residents can take to reduce water consumption. Checking for water leaks, installing low-flow showerheads, faucets and toilets, or replacing aging appliances with high-efficiency ones are great options to decrease consumption. Rebates can be found here: (<https://socalwatersmart.com/en/residential>)

Our gardens use about 50% of our water usage. Exploring a water wise garden, using rain barrels, and retrofitting irrigation systems can make a significant difference. In Del Mar, we have the option to redirect gray laundry water to water our gardens, possibly eliminating the need to use new water for irrigation. The County of San Diego's Department of Environmental Health provides guidelines here:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/lwqd/lu_graywater_systems.html#:~:text=A%20graywater%20system%20is%20a,as%20a%20subsurface%20irrigation%20source. For more information on reducing water consumption, please visit Del Mar Go Green's website and its Water page (<https://www.delmar.ca.us/674/Water>)

Updated: April 2023