

Use water wisely — it's a good practice every day

On a clear day, the snow on the Sierra glistens in the sunshine, a sign of a wet winter.

Many cities in the state rely on the snowpack for their water supply, including Merced. Every drop of water in the City's pipes is pumped from underground aquifers dependant on snowpack.

Using the underground layers of water keeps the supply steady, however aquifers are slow to recharge, so we must protect them.

The City has 21 wells pumping water through 276 miles of pipes to deliver nearly 20 million gallons of water a day.

All businesses and commercial water users have meters, and so do all houses built after 1992.

The rest of the homes have unmetered service, but the City is



working to have all of them hooked up to meters before the state deadline of 2025. People with meters know exactly how much they are using, and are charged accordingly.

Unmetered homes are charged a flat rate no matter how much water they use, which

doesn't encourage conservation.

The City of Merced has a Water Conservation Ordinance in effect year-round using the Odd/Even Address System.

If your address is an odd number (ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9) it's OK to water on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you have an even address (ending in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) your watering days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Don't water from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and never on Monday.

- ◆ Do not wash down sidewalks, driveways, or other outdoor surfaces except when needed to protect health and safety. Buildings may be washed down once a year.

- ◆ Use a hose with an automatic shutoff device when washing boats, cars, RVs and trucks.

- ◆ Do not water lawns and plants so much that it causes runoff and flooding.

- ◆ Repair any broken or leaky pipes in yard or house.

- ◆ Run full loads in the dishwasher or washing machine.

Odd/Even Address Watering Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Midnight to 11 AM and 7PM to Midnight	ODD	DO NOT WATER ANYTIME	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN

NO MIDDAY WATERING — 11 AM to 7 PM

State approves permit for City's Wastewater Treatment Plant

In March the state renewed the permit that allows the City to operate its Wastewater Treatment Plant on Gove Road.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board approved the National Pollutant Discharge Eliminate System (NPDES) permit for another 5 years.

The renewal comes with a

price tag of nearly \$68 million, most of it to make the state-required improvements and upgrades to the treatment plant.

The state wants tertiary treatment, which results in significantly cleaner water coming out of the plant.

The City will no longer be chlorinating the discharge to purify it because it leaves byprod-

ucts in the water. Instead, a system of extensive filters will remove contaminants and non-polluting ultraviolet light will disinfect the water.

The high tech filter/UV purification process will cost about \$50 million. There also will be higher operating costs from the electricity needed to pump water through the filters and provide power to

the ultraviolet lamps.

Other planned improvements include a new bridge to the treatment plant so that flood waters aren't backed up and new headworks that collect sand, grit and large solids entering the plant.

Cities throughout the Central Valley are being required to upgrade facilities to add the higher level of treatment.

Merced City Council

Mayor Ellie Wooten
Mayor Pro Tem John Carlisle
Council members:
Joe Cortez
Michele Gabriault-Acosta
Noah Lor
Jim Sanders
Bill Spriggs

Council meetings

The Council usually meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The City of Merced Web site, www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Municipal Code and General Plan and other information. To contact the Newsletter, e-mail newsletter@CityofMerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write:
Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th St.
Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except holidays.

Call us

City Council	385-6834
City Manager	385-6834
City Attorney	385-6868
City Clerk	385-6866
Airport	385-6873
Code Enforcement	385-6855
Finance	385-4718
Inspection Services	385-6861
Personnel	385-6839
Planning Department	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...	385-6800
After hours	385-6905
Recreation/Parks	385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department	385-6891
Police Department	385-6912

Search under way for new City Manager

The last day of work for City Manager Jim Marshall was March 28, but his retirement won't begin for a few more months.

Marshall agreed to serve as interim City Manager while the City Council selects his replacement.

The Council has selected Bob Murray & Associates to

attract qualified candidates to apply for the job.

The process for the selection hasn't been determined, but the City Council will make the final decision on Marshall's replacement.

Two other key City management positions also will become vacant in the months ahead. Development Services

Director Jack Lesch is retiring and so is City Engineer Dave Tucker.

They have agreed to continue on in an interim capacity while the search for the new City Manager continues.

Marshall has said he wants the City's new chief executive to be able to choose their replacements.



Be a good neighbor and put your refuse cans away the evening of your collection day. It helps make our City nicer.

Talk trash at the Spring Cleanup

The annual Spring Cleanup is coming the weekends of April 12-13 and April 19-20. Residents received a flier in the mail with the four locations and extensive details of the Cleanup.

TVs, computer monitors and other electronics are accepted, but not batteries.

There are nominal fees for appliances.

Up to nine passenger/light truck tires accepted.

Grab your seats cuz 'Surf's Up'

The City of Merced Parks and Community Services Department's free Family Movie Night series will show "Surf's Up" on April 18.

The animated film will begin at 7 p.m. at the McCombs Youth Center, 615 W. 15th St. The movie has festival seating, so bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Fundraiser helps gang issues

The United Way will be sponsoring a Family Bike Ride fundraiser May 10 with half the proceeds going to Merced Community Violence Prevention & Intervention Task Force — Merced ComVIP — for its programs.

The programs outlined at the 6 p.m. April 10 Community Forum at Golden Valley High School. They include a summer jobs program, expanded summer youth pro-

grams and the Gang Awareness Workshops.

The workshops give parents and the public information on gangs, the threat gangs pose and how to steer children away from them.

Photos of gang apparel, tattoos, colors and graffiti are shown to help parents recognize the signs of gang activity.

The 7 p.m. workshops are free and open to anyone.

April 3	Weaver/ Pioneer Schools, 3076 E. Childs Ave.
April 9	Merced HS, 205 W. Olive Ave.
April 16	Golden Valley HS, 2121 E. Childs Ave.
April 23	Valley Community School, 1850 Wardrobe Ave.
April 30	Valley Community HS, 1850 Wardrobe Ave.
May 7	Yosemite HS, 1900 G St.
May 14	Franklin/Stefani School, 2768 Ranchero Lane

There is help available during foreclosure crisis

Merced continues to have one of the highest foreclosures rates in the country.

There are some things you can do if you are having trouble making your house payment:

First, call your lender to see if they can adjust payments.

Don't abandon your home. You can lose eligibility for some assistance programs.

Other places to get help:

The Hope Hotline any time of the day or night for free help at 1-888-995-HOPE or go to 995hope.org.

The State of California has information at <http://www.yourhome.ca.gov/> or for help in Spanish go to <http://www.sucasa.ca.gov/>

The City website, www.cityofmerced.org, also has information available.