

FTDNC

# Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

Keeping the Neigh in Neighborhood



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July 16, 2009

Attention Please: Members of the Energy and Environment Committee  
Members of the Board of Water and Power  
Mr. David Nahai, DWP General Manager

FTDNC recommendations of the Equestrian Committee intended to benefit local residents and to support DWP water conservation efforts:

1. First Tier water for horses: Owners of 5 licensed horses are to receive up to 5 hcf/month of first tier water from DW in consideration of up to 20 gallons consumed by each horse, every day in hot months. Although it is now mid-summer, DWP has yet to establish a means by which people who qualify may receive this benefit. Nor has DWP established hardship easement regarding agriculture and livestock animals that need water as well. The city council had mentioned, a process "upfront" for hardship cases to have the ability to apply, not a backend appeal process.

Many horse owners have licensed horses in anticipation of the water benefit. Although this small consideration is sorely needed and appreciated, it remains unavailable. When can horse owners expect the program to begin and how will they qualify?

2. Recycled Water: The FTDNC Equestrian Committee has learned that millions of gallons of recycled water flow to the ocean, unused. Within the horse community, recycled water could and would, if available, be used to water riding arenas, dust abatement landscaping, permeable stable roads and parking areas. Such water use is generally mandated in Conditional Use Permits of commercial barns, preventing conservation by law.

Stable owners are willing to use employee time to fill water trucks and transport recycled water to the respective barns. DWP prevents this potential use, absolutely, by insisting that water presently flowing to the sea should be sold to willing users at a rate of 90% of the potable rate. The Metropolitan Water Board gives this water to DWP at no charge and has current no demand or major users outside the city. DWP needs to review its rate policy for reclaimed water and establish an interim rate to establish a substantial user demand.

Conservation can be greatly improved within equestrian communities if water presently being dumped into the Los Angeles River is made available at little or no cost through a local gate valve where trucks can fill. Not only would conservation be served, but the State of California Department of Water Resources would no longer be in a position to penalize the city for non- use of this resource.

Therefore - FTDNC through its Equestrian Committee recommends that the 5 hcf of first tier water offered for horse use become available immediately.

A process be established DWP for agriculture and victory gardens and live-stock use.

And therefore – FTDNC through its Equestrian Committee recommends that DWP be encouraged to partner with LA City equestrian communities to enable use of recycled water to abate the heavy usage requirements of commercial barn CUP's. Doing so would effect noteworthy conservation during our ongoing drought for a very small investment on the part of DWP.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dale Gibson, President  
Royan Herman, Equestrian Committee Chair

Letter addressed to:

Members of the Energy and Environment Committee at:  
200 North Spring Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, LA, Ca. 90012  
Councilmember Jan Perry  
Councilmember Eric Garcetti  
Councilmember Tony Cardenas  
Councilmember Richard Alarcon

Board of Water and Power Commissioners  
DWP Rm. 1555 H 15<sup>th</sup> floor  
111 North Hope Street  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Mr. David Nahai, General Manager, Department of Water and Power  
LA DWP Correspondence, attention please Mr. David Nahai  
PO Box 5154071, Los Angeles, Ca. 900512-6707