
Home

Who We Are

President's Message

Meetings

Annual Rose Show

Membership

D the G

Activity Photo Galleries

Members' Gardens

American Rose Society (offsite)

Site Map

D the G Archives

Roses Feeding the Soul

The setting sun on a
hill
sprinkled with roses,
Paints a relief of
intricate poses.
It is a haven of beauty
in which to feed
the soul.
It is a richness worth
much more than
precious gold.
--Russell A. Baum

D the G - - June, 2015 WATER, WATER, WATER!!

I'm not making this up. This quote is from the L.A. Times on April 16, 2015, Section B page 2. On Wednesday, Krekorian and Councilman Mike Bonin proposed that the city waive fees for home water recycling systems. According to Bonin's office, the average cost of a permit is \$507. And the city approved only 13 permits for gray-water systems last year. The following is a quote from an editorial in the Los Angeles Times from April 20, 2015:

"During the drought of 1977-78, the state offered tax breaks to residents who installed gray-water systems but ended them as soon as the rain began to fall again. L.A. began a gray-water pilot project in the midst of a drought that began in 1987 but shelved it when the rains came again in the early 1990's."

There are two types of gray water: from the shower and from the laundry. Currently a permit is not needed for using gray water from the laundry. There are 14 common sense guidelines that must be followed such as: water from cleaning diapers cannot be used. Be sure to read the guidelines from the LA Department of Building and Safety and the guidelines from the DWP; they are a bit confusing or as has been said: "They are as clear as mud."

I estimated that the amount of water used at my home would conservatively be reduced by about 60% by using 'gray water'. The question is: Why have I never seen one advertisement from the city urging the citizens of L.A. to install and use a gray water system. My callous thought is that the city would lose a portion of its revenue stream. The DWP must be allowed to charge enough to repair, maintain and build the water infrastructure for Los Angeles. Let's try and keep a clear-headed perspective. As we have heard, one awful almond takes 1 gallon of water to produce. I checked and one cantaloupe takes 60 gallons of water to produce and one pound of beef takes 1750 gallons of water to produce.

As 'D the G' and a Landscape Contractor, my opinions on handling a resource as precious as water are as follows: Plan ahead! Remember the water pipes that were bursting around the city because the order went out for citizens of L.A. to water on the same days. The old pipes pressurized and depressurized and burst. The LaHabra reservoir was drained to the sea as the water was not potable but was ok for irrigation. The City of La Canada/Flintridge uses this type of water for irrigate landscaping. The Silverlake reservoir was drained to the sea because one teenager peed in the water. Giving the DWP credit, they would not do the above again. Hopefully the DWP will develop foresight. Hopefully the DWP will not focus on what goes into the water of Lake Mead or Lake Powell.

In Europe, people have built a highway under Mount Blanc. The Chunnel was built connecting continental Europe with England. There are pipelines that crisscross this great country carrying natural gas, and oil. How about a water pipeline from areas with too much water to the state that supplies much of the winter food for the USA. There are several lakes that are drained at the beginning of winter like Pinecrest Lake and Cordaline Lake. These two lakes contain an enormous amount of water. I have no idea of the political complexities involved in building a pipeline or stressing the use of grey-water. If we were truly in a crisis, like in WWII, action would be taken. I do not usually express a political opinion other than to say that I am Pro Volone and Anti Pasto.

There is one source of 'free' water I discovered at my home. It delivers on average 2 - 6 gallons of water per day or 14 to 40 gallons per week. When the dry Santa Ana Winds blow there is less water and more when the weather system comes into California from south of the border. It is from the condensation line from the air conditioner. I discovered this the year that a whole house air conditioner was installed. The drought tolerant tree, Ceanothus Ray Hartman, died from being overwatered by the water from the condensation line. I hadn't watered this tree in some years. This water is now collected in a rain water barrel and used to water a section of my garden.

A question that I have presented to representatives of the DWP is: What happens if someone moves into or out of a dwelling? Friends of our family have a 9 month old child. Needless to say the amount of laundry has increased along with water usage. A client of mine has been working in Asia for most of the last two years. One person has been caring for the house and two people will be moving back into the home in June. What tier of water usage will the above residence be subject to. The DWP has been silent on this question.

.... To be continued

Happy Gardening,
D the G
[Dave's Greenscapes](#)