

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

I never thought I'd love seeing the rain as much as I did this past week. It raised the water levels in the rivers and lakes, and brought the green back to our yards. We know that last week's rain isn't enough to stave off the upcoming Drought of 2014. We still have a tough road ahead.

My memories of the 1977 drought in California are from visiting with a group of teenagers. We took a bus down I-5 from Oregon to Sea World, stopping at Knotts Berry Farm, Hearst Castle and a conference in Fresno along the way. I remember the signs in restaurants that said you needed to ask for water if you wanted it. But the swimming pools were still in operation.

We've all heard the standard suggestions for saving water—not running water while brushing teeth, taking shorter showers, not washing your car. I ran across a couple I hadn't heard before and wanted to share them.

One--Fill pitchers with excess water while you are waiting for the water to heat up or get cold.

Two--If you drop an ice cube on the floor toss it in a plant instead of the sink. I'm not an indoor plant person so I'm thinking I will start water recovery bowl for my outside shrubs. Not that I drop that much ice—or have that many shrubs.

Three--Save water from rinsing vegetables for watering plants. Another great idea for a recovery bowl.



Fortuna is tightening its observance of who can buy water from the City. Good move Fortuna. People who need it will still have a chance to buy it, but I'm thinking the pot growers are going to be hurting this summer.

Our popular county blog does a disservice to the drought problem by downplaying the relationship between pot growing and our water supply.

The other day they talked about the "unsavory water use practices" unveiled in pot busts. "Unsavory?" Another line in the same story said "water issues go well beyond whatever good or arguably bad practices marijuana farmers may be using to grow their crops."

Arguably bad? Have they not seen the up close photos of an abandoned illegal pot grow? I'll have Pacific Watershed Associates send them a few.

What we need to get the environmentalists and media interested in the pot growing water issue is to somehow tie Rob Arkley or Charles Hurwitz to the story. Do you think the words "unsavory" or "arguably bad" would be used to describe the water diversion happening in the hills if Mr. Arkely or Mr. Hurwitz were involved? If they were tied to the issue the words would "arguably" be "devastating," "life threatening," "unconscionable."

We are going to be in for a rough time of it this summer and we need everyone to step up to the plate. It's time the industrial pot growers stopped illegally diverting streams. Hey--I think I just heard that Charles Hurwitz bought out a bunch of that pot grows.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.