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### It's April in Lamorinda

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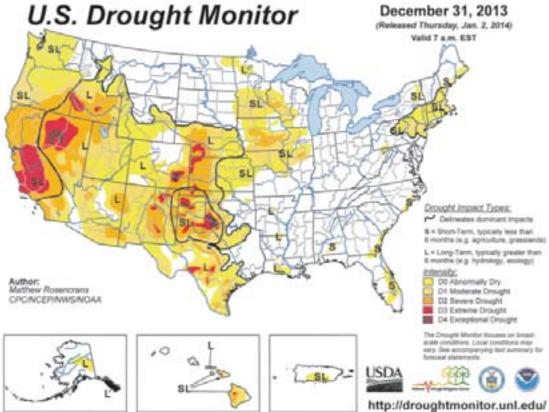
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#### **From Front Page**

## **Dry Conditions Pose Risks Beyond** Water Restrictions

... continued from page A1



1970s. Jim Russell of Moraga

watched his all-grass front yard die

out back then. "We lost a lot of stuff"

complying with rationing, he said. His

family removed their front lawn dur-

ing the drought and replaced it with

shore juniper, and later bamboo and river rock hardscape. Most people re-

ally got on the recycling bandwagon,

Russell said. He remembers collect-

ing shower water in containers and re-

"Even today I can't stand to hear

cycling it onto outdoor plants.

Maps provided

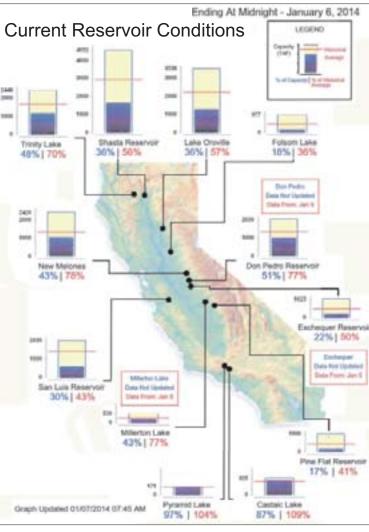
When it comes to drinking water, East Bay residents may be lucky: 90 percent of their supply comes from the Sierra Mountains, and those reservoirs are 65 percent full (the San Pablo Dam and Lafayette Reservoir water would be used only in emer-

Pook thinks there is more water recycling and conservation today than there was during the 1970s-era drought, but her company is being proactive: "We're not just praying and hoping" for water relief, Pook said, "we're planning."



Spotted Bobcat outside a window in Orinda.

Photo Dale Newhouse



Wildlife, too, goes in search of dents recall the water crisis of the mid water. If animals can't find adequate drinking water in their normal habitat, they may venture closer to civilization. It's hard to tell if that was the reason one Orinda resident recently spied a bobcat just outside the backyard window.

"This is the driest season on record," said East Bay Municipal Utility District spokesperson Andrea Pook. "The Mokelumne River watershed is at only at 24 percent of its normal capacity, and every couple days without precipitation the level drops again."

Even when it does rain, those storms have sometimes missed the watersheds, she said. Still, Pook said the overall picture "isn't that frightening" because "there is half a winter ahead of us." When water forecasting is done in April, if the storage levels are still low EBMUD board of directors would then request water rationing, Pook said.

Many longtime Lamorinda resi-

#### **Drought Mitigation in** Lamorinda

Average annual rainfall in San Francisco is 20.78 inches, yet in 2013 that amount fell to 3.38 inches. The 2013 rainfall amount was less than half the previous record low of 8.79 inches, set in 1946. Because of this, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District reminds all homeowners to maintaining clearance around housing structures, keeping clear debris on roofs, in gutters, under and on decks and by mowing, disking or trimming grasses or brush to a 3 inch maximum height. Supervise any open flames, including barbecues and fire pits. Keep a hose or water bucket handy. Watch for sparks, use a spark arrestor, metal screen or cover. MOFD offers a free wildfire risk assessment to its home and property owners. The assessment takes about 45 minutes and helps homeowners identify ways to make their property safe against wildfires. For more information, contact Fire Prevention at (925) 258-4525, ext.

Source: MOFD Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard

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