

New list of water hogs includes bankers, lawyers, former Warrior

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Photo: Michael Macor, The Chronicle

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280 Wayne in Alamo, Calif., is one of the highest water users as reported by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, seen on Thurs. October 30, 2015.

A second list of the biggest water guzzlers in the East Bay was released Thursday, and it included titans of technology, construction, finance and the legal community, plus a former [Golden State Warriors](#) basketball player.

The list of 1,098 East Bay Municipal Utility District customers who sucked up more than their share of water during a 60-day billing period this summer is a who's who of some of the richest people in the Bay Area — including [Adonal Foyle](#) of Orinda, who played center for the Warriors for 10 seasons and retired in 2010.

The top water user, amid a historic fourth year of extreme drought, was Kumarakulasingan “Suri” Suriyakumar,

president and chief executive of ARC Document Solutions, a Walnut Creek software company that caters to the construction industry. He consumed 9,611 gallons a day at his Diablo compound, records show.

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Second place on the list released Thursday went to [Michael Carvin](#) of Alamo, who works in construction and used 8,764 gallons a day. Well-known developer [Tom Seeno](#) of Alamo was third, swilling a hefty 7,841 gallons a day. Fourth was [Steven Burd](#), who retired two years ago after serving two decades as the chief executive of Safeway. He managed to take in 7,255 gallons a day.

Foyle, who consumed 2,979 gallons, came in at No. 42 on the list. The top 20 users consumed between 15 and 30 times more water than the average citizen, who used 250 gallons a day.

Efforts to reach Foyle and the executives at the top of the list were not immediately successful.

The lists was made up of customers penalized for using more than about 1,000 gallons of water per day. [Abby Figueroa](#), the municipal utility district spokeswoman, said they violated the agency's Excessive Use Penalty Ordinance, which bills extra to those who consume more than 80 units, or 59,840 gallons, in a single 60 day billing cycle. One unit is 748 gallons.

The district released the information in response to requests made under California's open government rules. While most utility data is considered private under state public records laws, information on violations remains subject to disclosure.

The list is a stark indication of the huge disparity in water use among the 1.3 million customers in 35 East Bay cities that receive water from the district, which has cut water use by 21 percent since Jan. 1. The district has three billing cycles for its 327,000 single-family residential customers.

Figueroa said this is the second of three lists of excessive water users. The third list is expected to be released in two weeks, she said.

The district's first list included Oakland A's executive vice president [Billy Beane](#), known for his frugal style of signing baseball players, who had been slopping nearly 6,000 gallons of water a day on the grounds of his Danville estate.

The top two water users on the first list were former Chevron Vice Chairman [George Kirkland](#) of Danville, who has been using 12,578 gallons a day, followed by venture capitalist Mark Pine of Alamo, who had been guzzling 8,090 gallons a day. Several addresses in Danville owned by [Dennis Baca](#), a prominent real estate developer, appeared on that list.

The person who answered the phone at Baca Properties hung up before any questions could be asked. Beane and others have blamed undetected leaks for their water use.

Alamo and Danville appear to be the thirstiest cities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, along with the exclusive enclave of Diablo. Slurp central appears to be Blackhawk near Danville, an unnaturally lush, gated community full of sprawling multimillion-dollar mansions. The enormous green lawns, tropical plants and exotic trees surrounding the homes are in stark contrast to the adjacent hills, which are dry, brown and weedy.

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