## **APPENDIX B: eCCR Certification Form (Suggested Format)**

### **Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form**

(To be submitted with a copy of the CCR)

Water System Name:	GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY - Claremont
Water System Number:	CA1910024

The water system named above hereby certifies that its Consumer Confidence Report was distributed on July 1, 2024 to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

#### Certified by:

Name: George Zakhari	Title: Water Quality Engineer	
Signature: george zakhari	Date: September 25, 2024	
Phone number: (909) 592-4271		

To summarize report delivery used and good-faith efforts taken, please complete this page by checking all items that apply and fill-in where appropriate:

- CCR was distributed by mail or other direct delivery methods (attach description of other direct delivery methods used).
- CCR was distributed using electronic delivery methods described in the Guidance for Electronic Delivery of the Consumer Confidence Report (water systems utilizing electronic delivery methods must complete the second page).
- Good faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods:
  - Posting the CCR at the following URL: <u>www.gswater.com/annual-water-</u> <u>quality-reports/</u>
  - Mailing the CCR to postal patrons within the service area (attach zip codes used)
  - Advertising the availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of press release)
  - Publication of the CCR in a local newspaper of general circulation (attach a copy of the published notice, including name of newspaper and date published)
  - Posted the CCR in public places (attach a list of locations)

Delivery of multiple copies of CCR to single-billed addresses serving several
persons, such as apartments, businesses, and schools
Delivery to community organizations (attach a list of organizations)

- Publication of the CCR in the electronic city newsletter or electronic community newsletter or listserv (attach a copy of the article or notice)
- Electronic announcement of CCR availability via social media outlets (attach list of social media outlets utilized)
- Other (attach a list of other methods used)
- *For systems serving at least 100,000 persons*: Posted CCR on a publicly-accessible internet site at the following URL: www.\_\_\_\_\_
- For privately-owned utilities: Delivered the CCR to the California Public Utilities Commission

### **Consumer Confidence Report Electronic Delivery Certification**

Water systems utilizing electronic distribution methods for CCR delivery must complete this page by checking all items that apply and fill-in where appropriate.

- Water system mailed a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct URL to the CCR on a publicly available website where it can be viewed (attach a copy of the mailed CCR notification). URL: <u>http://www.gswater.com/ClaremontCCR</u>
- Water system emailed a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct URL to the CCR on a publicly available site on the Internet where it can be viewed (attach a copy of the emailed CCR notification). URL: http://www.gswater.com/ClaremontCCR
- Water system emailed the CCR as an electronic file email attachment.
- Water system emailed the CCR text and tables inserted or embedded into the body of an email, not as an attachment (attach a copy of the emailed CCR).
- Requires prior DDW review and approval. Water system utilized other electronic delivery method that meets the direct delivery requirement.

Provide a brief description of the water system's electronic delivery procedures and include how the water system ensures delivery to customers unable to receive electronic delivery.

In our continuing efforts to better serve our customers, conserve resources, and reduce costs, Golden State Water Company chose to utilize electronic delivery of the annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) as allowed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water. Notices regarding the availability of the CCR were mailed to customers as a bill insert, and also emailed to all customers receiving electronic bills. These notices, printed and emailed in both English and Spanish, directed people to the URL for viewing the CCR online, and also gave them information on how to request a hard copy of the CCR.

This form is provided as a convenience and may be used to meet the certification requirement of section 64483(c) of the California Code of Regulations.

**CPUC** Delivery Letter



July 5, 2024

California Public Utilities Commission ATTN: Terence Shia, P.E. Director, Water Division 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, California 94102

To: Terence Shia

Enclosed, please find printed versions of Golden State Water Company's 2024 Consumer Confidence Reports for year 2023 and a list of each water system owned and operated by our company.

The Consumer Confidence Reports were delivered to the respective water customers during June 2024. The reports are available at each local water system office, the District offices of Golden State Water Company, and may be viewed on our website at www.gswater.com/annual-water-quality-reports.

Should you have any further questions in this matter, you may contact me at (714) 514-5210 (sunil@gswater.com), or Dawn White at (916) 853-3615 (dawn.white@gswater.com).

Sunil Pillai,

Digitally signed by Sunil Pillai DN: cn=Sunil Pillai, o=GSWC, ou=Vice President, Ennvironmental Quality, email=sunil@gswater.com, c=US Date: 2024.07.05 14:54:08 -07'00'

Vice President, Environmental Quality

#### Enclosure



List of Golden State Water Systems

- 1. Apple Valley North
- 2. Apple Valley South
- 3. Arden
- 4. Artesia
- 5. Barstow/Lenwood
- 6. Bay Point
- 7. Bell/Bell Gardens
- 8. Calipatria
- 9. Claremont
- 10. Clearlake
- 11. Cordova
- 12. Cowan Heights
- 13. Culver City
- 14. Cypress Ridge
- 15. Desert View
- 16. Edna Road
- 17. Florence-Graham
- 18. Hollydale
- 19. Lake Marie
- 20. Los Osos
- 21. Lucerne
- 22. Morongo Del Norte
- 23. Morongo Del Sur
- 24. Nipomo (Vista)
- 25. Norwalk
- 26. Orcutt
- 27. Placentia-Yorba Linda
- 28. Robbins
- 29. San Dimas
- 30. Simi Valley
- 31. Sisquoc
- 32. South Arcadia
- 33. South San Gabriel
- 34. South Shore
- 35. Southwest
- 36. Tanglewood
- 37. West Orange
- 38. Willowbrook
- 39. Wrightwood

Bill Insert

#### Golden State Water Company A Subsidiary of American States Water Company

## Consumer Confidence Reports **Available Now!**

### **The Consumer Confidence Report**

The Consumer Confidence Report, or CCR, is an annual water quality report that the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires Golden State Water Company to provide its customers. The CCR introduces customers to the quality of their drinking water, its origin, and the efforts required by Golden State Water Company to deliver quality, reliable water. The State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water is comprised of highly trained water quality experts who closely monitor all water testing and have confirmed that Golden State Water's water meets all water quality standards and is safe to drink.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2024 CCR mailed to your address or to speak with someone about the report, please call **1-800-999-4033** or email **waterquality@gswater.com**.

## For more information, visit **gswater.com**

Si desea una copia en papel del CCR del 2024 enviado por correo a su dirección o si desea hablar con alguien sobre el informe, llame al **1-800-999-4033** o por correo electrónico a **waterquality@gswater.com**.

WATER SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY	Annual Water Quality Reports	
Water Quality — Annual Water Quality Reports Lead Drinking Water Standards +	As part of Golden State Water Company's ongoing commitment to providing high quality water, the com customers, state and local health agencias and community leaders with Water Quality Reports. The repo- information about your water quality and the effort we make to ensure any water quality issues are high Annual Water Quality Report block to learn more.	rts provide detailed
Flushing Types of Contaminants	Water quality test results are directly submitted by the State certified laboratory to the State of Californi Water (DDW) and recorded on the State's website for full transparency. Click here 🗵 to view test results-	
Cross-Connection Control Protection Program	ENGLISH REPORTS	+
Urban Water Management Plan Public Safety Power Shutoffs	EN ESPAÑOL	+
	2022 Reports on Public Health Goals	

You can view your 2024 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water by visiting our website. You can find a direct URL link in the message center on the back of your water bill. You can also find the URL link for your system in the table on the reverse side of this page.



El informe de Confianza del Consumidor o CCR, es un informe anual de la calidad de agua potable que el Decreto de Agua Potable Sana requiere que Golden State Water Company le provee.

El CCR presenta a los clientes la calidad de su agua potable, su origen y los esfuerzos requeridos por Golden State Water Company para entregar agua confiable y de calidad.



La División de Agua Potable de la Junta Estatal de Control de Recursos Hídricos está compuesta por expertos altamente capacitados en la calidad del agua que monitorean de cerca todas las pruebas de agua y han confirmado que el agua de Golden State Water cumple con todos los estándares de calidad del agua y es segura para beber.





For more information, visit **gswater.com** 

Apple Valley North Water System www.gswater.com/AppleValleyNorthCCR

Apple Valley South Water System www.gswater.com/AppleValleySouthCCR

Arden Water System www.gswater.com/ArdenCCR

Artesia Water System www.gswater.com/ArtesiaCCR

Barstow Water System www.gswater.com/BarstowCCR

Baypoint Water System www.gswater.com/BaypointCCR

Bell-Bell Gardens Water System www.gswater.com/BellBellGardensCCR

Calipatria Water System www.gswater.com/CalipatriaCCR

Claremont Water System www.gswater.com/ClaremontCCR

Clearlake Water System www.gswater.com/ClearlakeCCR

Cordova Water System www.gswater.com/CordovaCCR

Cowan Heights Water System www.gswater.com/CowanHeightsCCR

Culver City Water System www.gswater.com/CulverCityCCR

Cypress Ridge Water System www.gswater.com/CypressRidgeCCR

Desert View Water System www.gswater.com/DesertViewCCR

Edna Road Water System www.gswater.com/EdnaRoadCCR

Florence-Graham Water System www.gswater.com/FlorenceGrahamCCR

Hollydale Water System www.gswater.com/HollydaleCCR

Lake Marie Water System www.gswater.com/LakeMarieCCR

Los Osos Water System www.gswater.com/LosOsosCCR Lucerne Water System www.gswater.com/LucerneCCR

Morongo Del Norte Water System www.gswater.com/MorongoDelNorteCCR

Morongo Del Sur Water System www.gswater.com/MorongoDelSurCCR

Nipomo Water System www.gswater.com/NipomoCCR

Norwalk Water System www.gswater.com/NorwalkCCR

Orcutt Water System www.gswater.com/OrcuttCCR

Placentia-Yorba Linda Water System www.gswater.com/Placentia-YorbaLindaCCR

Robbins Water System www.gswater.com/RobbinsCCR

San Dimas Water System www.gswater.com/SanDimasCCR

Simi Valley Water System www.gswater.com/SimiValleyCCR

Sisquoc Water System www.gswater.com/SisquocCCR

South Arcadia Water System www.gswater.com/SouthArcadiaCCR

South San Gabriel Water System www.gswater.com/SouthSanGabrielCCR

South Shore Water System www.gswater.com/SouthshoreCCR

Southwest Water System www.gswater.com/SouthwestCCR

Tanglewood Water System www.gswater.com/TanglewoodCCR

West Orange County Water System www.gswater.com/WestOrangeCountyCCR

Willowbrook Water System www.gswater.com/WillowbrookCCR

Wrightwood Water System www.gswater.com/WrightwoodCCR

## Sample Bill

#### SERVICE FOR



Claremont CA 91711-1974

Customer Service - 24 Hours: (800) 999-4033 www.gswater.com Hearing Impaired TTY: (877) 933-9533 Preguntas? Llame al Centro de Servicio al Consumidor al (800) 999-4033

Visit gswater.com to enroll for service updates via e-newsletter.

Mail Payments to NEW Address: P.O. Box 51133, Los Angeles, CA 90051-1133. To learn about the various Payment Options we offer go to: www.gswater.com/payment-options or see back of bill

#### Current Activity

#### Rate Schedule R3-1-R (R31RM)

Service Charge 1" meter	
Service Charge	\$49.85
Water Usage	
Tier 1 - Water Usage - 12.00 CCF at \$5.242	\$62.90
Tier 2 - Water Usage - 11.00 CCF at \$6.028	\$66.31
Surcharges, Fees, & Credits	
CAP Prog Adm Surcharge - 23.00 CCF at \$0.08	\$1.84
WRAM/MCBA Surcharge/credit	\$12.49
Other Surcharges/credits	\$8.13
City Tax - Claremont 5.5% of \$201.52	\$11.08
CPUC Fee - 0.7% - of \$201.52	\$1.41
Total New Charges	\$214.01

ACCOUNT NUMBER

BILL DATE

**DUE DATE** July 05, 2024

June 14, 2024

\$661.99

Page 1 of 2

Acco	unt Si	ımmar
1.000		

Previous Balance		\$447.98
Payments		\$0.00
Total Prior Balance	Due On June 17, 2024	\$447.98
Current Charges	Due On July 5, 2024	\$214.01
Total Amount Due		\$661.99

Drought Stage 1 Usage History (One CCF = 7.48 CGL or 748 gallons)				
Bill Period	2020 Usage	Target Usage *	Actual Usage	
Prior	50 CCF or 374.00 CGL	40 CCF or 299.20 CGL	30 CCF or 224.40 CGL	
Current	79 CCF or 590.92 CGL	64 CCF or 478.72 CGL	23 CCF or 172.04 CGL	
Next	82 CCF or 613.36 CGL	66 CCF or 493.68 CGL		
The Stage 1 TARGET	USAGE (your allocation	) for the PRIOR and CUI	RENT period is	

The Stage 1 TARGET USAGE (your allocation) for the PRIOR and CURRENT period is voluntary and based on the number of days of the bill period.

#### **Read and Usage Information**

Meter	Servic	e Period	Days	Previous Reading	Current Reading	CCF Usage
ММ	May 13	Jun 13	31	4335	4358	23
Your next s	cheduled met	er read dat	e is app	roximately Ju	uly 12, 2024	

Your opinion is very important to us. Please rate our service by calling 1-888 933 8648. Enter code 141 when prompted.

#### CEBILL

If you have changed your address or are moving, please call (800) 999 4033 or fill out form on back.

ACCOUNT NUMBER:



Total Prior Balance Due On June 17, 2024	\$447.98	Amount Enclosed
Current Charges Due On July 5, 2024	\$214.01	
Total Amount Due	\$661.99	



PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

Golden State Water Company

LOS ANGELES CA 90051-1133

PO BOX 51133

GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY PO BOX 51133 LOS ANGELES CA 90051-1133

#### **Message Center**

The state of California is experiencing drought conditions, and all water customers are encouraged to use water responsibly and reduce usage. FOR INFORMATION ON THE DROUGHT, conservation and local requirements, please visit www.gswater.com/drought. Phone (909) 399-5453 regarding city taxes on your bill.

To view your 2024 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water, please visit: www.gswater.com/ClaremontCCR Watering Days: EVEN ADDRESSES (0,2,4,6,8): Sunday, Wednesday, Friday ODD ADDRESSES (1,3,5,7,9): Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

Effective 5/1/24 due to annual WRAM&MCBA recalibration; 18-month surcharge applies to general meter service & 18-month surcredit to nongeneral meter service & 2022 WRAM&MCBA surcharge/credit expires. For more information, visit gswater.com

#### **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Go to www.gswater.com/payment-options for payment options, authorized locations, and auto pay application form.

- Auto Pay (Electronic Funds Transfer): Submit an application to pay your bill automatically from a checking or savings account.
- Online: Receive bills online and pay electronically by using "MyGSWater". Go to: www.gswater.com/payment-options or call (800) 999-4033.
- Phone: Call KUBRA EZ-PAY at (844) 706-7690. KUBRA EZ-PAY accepts ATM, Visa, MasterCard, Discover or electronic check.
- Mail: Send bill stub and payment in enclosed envelope.
- In Person: Visit www.gswater.com/payment-options to find a KUBRA EZ-PAY agent to make a Cash Payment (service fee applies).

### BILL TERMS AND POLICY OF DISCONTINUATION OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR NONPAYMENT

The bill is due and payable upon date of presentation. It will become past due if not paid within 19 days from the date of mailing. A cash deposit and reconnection charge may be required to re-establish credit and service.

To avoid disconnection of residential service for nonpayment, customers can call Golden State Water to request a one-time payment extension or set-up a payment plan by contacting our Customer Service Center at (800) 999-4033. For more information on the Policy of Discontinuation of Residential Services please visit https://www.gswater.com/policy-of-discontinuation available in multiple languages.

#### WRAM/MCBA SURCHARGE/SURCREDIT

The Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA) ensure revenue recovered from rates balances with expenses to operate, maintain and improve the water system. For more info, please visit gswater.com/rates-schedules-and-tariffs.

#### **DROUGHT INFORMATION**

The state of California is experiencing drought conditions, and all water customers are encouraged to use water responsibly and reduce usage. For information on the drought, conservation and local requirements, please visit www.gswater.com/drought.

**DISPUTING YOUR BILL:** If you believe there is an error on your bill or **have a question about your service, please call Golden State Water Company customer support at (800) 999-4033.** We welcome the opportunity to assist you. If after contacting us, you are still not satisfied with Golden State Water Company's response, you may submit a complaint to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) by visiting http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/complaints/. Billing and service complaints are handled by the CPUC's Consumer Affairs Branch (CAB), which can be reached by the following means if you prefer not to submit your complaint online:

Telephone: 1-800-649-7570 (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday) Mail: California Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Affairs Branch, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2003, San Francisco, CA 94102

If you have limitations hearing or speaking, dial 711 to reach the California Relay Service, which is for those needing direct assistance relaying telephone conversations, as well their friends, family, and business contacts. If you prefer having your calls immediately answered in your mode of communication, dial one of the toll-free language-specific numbers below to be routed to the California Relay Service provider.

Language	Type of Call	Toll-free 800 Number
English	TTY/VCO/HCO to Voice Voice to TTY/VCO/HCO From or to Speech-to- Speech	1-800-735-2929 1-800-735-2922 1-800-854-7784
Spanish	TTY/VCO/HCO to Voice Voice to TTY/VCO/HCO	1-800-855-3000

To avoid having service turned off while you wait for the outcome of a complaint to the CPUC **specifically regarding the accuracy of your bill,** please contact CAB for assistance. If your case meets the eligibility criteria, CAB will provide you with instructions on how to mail a check or money order to be impounded pending resolution of your case. You must continue to pay your current charges while your complaint is under review to keep your service turned on. The Commission will not, however, accept deposits when the dispute appears to be over matters that do not directly relate to the accuracy of the bill. Such matters include the quality of the utility's service, general level of rates, pending rate applications and sources of fuel or power.

#### PLEASE INDICATE ANY CHANGES

Name:		
Address:		
City:		
State:	Zip:	
Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		
Email:		

Sample Electronic Mail for eBill Customers

#### Consumer Confidence Reports Are Now Available

#### Golden State Water Company <noreply@genasys.com>

Sat 6/1/2024 9:08 AM

#### This Message Is From An External Sender

This message came from outside the company. Do not open any attachments unless you expected this message. Do not click links unless you are sure they are safe.

#### **EXTERNAL EMAIL**



#### Message from Golden State Water Company

Dear Valued Customer,

Golden State Water is pleased to announce that Consumer Confidence Reports are now available. The Consumer Confidence Report, or CCR, is an annual water quality report that the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires Golden State Water Company to provide to you. The purpose of the CCR is to raise customer awareness of the quality of your drinking water, where your drinking water comes from, what it takes to deliver water to your homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2024 CCR mailed to your mailing address or would like to speak with someone about the report, please call 1- 800-999-4033 or email waterquality@gswater.com

## You can view your 2024 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water by visiting the following URL: <u>www.gswater.com/ClaremontCCR</u>

El informe de Confianza del Consumidor o CCR, es un informe anual de la calidad de agua potable que el Decreto de Agua Potable Sana requiere que Golden State Water Company le provee. El objetivo del CCR es aumentar la conciencia de los consumidores acerca de la calidad de su agua potable, de donde viene el agua potable, lo que se necesita para distribuir agua a su hogar, y la importancia de proteger fuentes de agua potable. Este informe contiene información importante acerca del origen y la calidad de su agua potable.

Si desea una copia en papel del CCR del 2024 enviado por correo a su dirección o si desea hablar con alguien sobre el informe, llame al 1-800-999-4033 o por correo electrónico a <u>waterquality@gswater.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Golden State Water Company

Golden State Water Company

Newspaper Proof of Publication

## VIEWPOINT Let's clear the air: fireworks endanger our health

by Char Miller Special to the Courier

his is not a screed against that favorite aspect of our Fourth of July celebrations, the boom-sizzle-pop of countless fireworks and the elongated "oohs" and "ahhs" that accompany a gorgeous, multi-hued pyrotechnic display. Who doesn't like those technicolor pinwheels?

hat concerns me, however, is the toxic aftermath of the countless legal and illegal skyrockets, Roman candles, and firecrackers — what one friend described, after the window-rattling, sleep-disturbed night this Fourth, as World War III.

The airborne consequences were omnipresent in the predawn hours of July 5, when I headed out for my morning

Gould

ASSET MANAGEMENT.



Arrow Route just east of Monte Vista Avenue, at the overpass of the San Antonio Creek Channel, at dawn on July 5. Photo/courtesy of Char Miller



Golden State Water Company's 2024 Annual Water Quality Reports (Consumer Confidence Reports) detailing local water quality and service during the 2023 calendar year are now available. Interested parties who would like to view or print a copy can access the reports at:

www.gswater.com/annual-water-quality-reports.



Learn how Gould delivers solutions that organize your investment life into a coherent whole.

Personal, sophisticated, and careful wealth management – this is the essence of Gould Asset Management. Our firm oversees more than \$700 million in assets on behalf of individuals, families, endowments and foundations.

We help our clients manage their financial lives.

To begin a conversation on how we may help you, call us at 909.445.1291.

341 W. First Street, Suite 200 • Claremont, CA 91711 Tel 909.445.1291 • contact@gouldasset.com • gouldasset.com

No specific outcome can be guaranteed due to inherent risks of investing in securities markets.

ramble. The first clue of many were the streetlights, enshrouded in a gloom that had nothing to do with a cool, moisture-laden marine layer. Air Quality Index: 188 — "Worse than yesterday at about this time." I'll say.

Glancing up Mountain Avenue and then Indian Hill Boulevard, their long slopes north were obscured thanks to a cordite fog that had settled low to the ground. At College Avenue, a solitary cyclist huffed uphill; three blocks on, his profile blurred. AQI: 189.

By the time I reached the corner of Sixth Street and Claremont Boulevard, arriving just in time to watch the sun rise above a distant ridge, the sky was blood orange. The first rays cut through and magnified the gray film that drifted over the quarry and wreathed the foothills and mountains, a dystopic terrain.

Fireworks were not solely responsible for the lung compromising air quality. After all, the glorious fan shaped artistry of numerous local public displays had flared up into a blisteringly hot sky, the result of a heat dome pressing down over the state.

dding to the danger of exercising outdoors was the run of ele-**L** vated temperatures into the low 100s across the Inland Empire. This persistent heat has, and will continue to wither vegetation in valleys, foothills, and mountains of Southern and Northern California. These landscapes are so much kindling, one spark away from a fiery eruption.

That is already happening. This past week two major fires scorched more than 20,000 acres of oak-grasslands in the rumpled hills of eastern Fresno County. Smaller blazes have been popping up in Southern California, near Mt. Baldy, and in Corona and Moreno Valley. The 400-acre Sierra Fire threatened homes in Fontana before firefighters contained it.

Yet the intensity of and the speed

Claremont Courier/Friday, July 12, 2024 **6** 

# 

The morning after A joyous celebration: Miasmatic fog ... - Kate Massey

Haiku submissions should reflect upon life or events in Claremont. Please email entries to editor@claremont-courier.com.

#### LETTERS TO THE **EDITOR AND** VIEWPOINT SUBMISSIONS

Please include your name and city on all letters. Letters should not exceed 300 words, Viewpoint submissions, 700 words. Both should be emailed to:

editor@claremont-courier.com

If sending via U.S. Mail, please address to Editor, PO Box 878, Claremont, CA 91711. Both letters and Viewpoint submissions are published at the discretion of the editor, and are subject to editing for style, clarity and space. Letters received after **3 p.m. Wednesday** may not appear in that week's edition.

with which the Sierra Fire moved led San Bernardino County Fire public affairs officer Eric Sherwin to predict a tough summer ahead. "Southern California is ready to burn. These fires are everywhere," he said. That reality caused him to urge caution. "Everything we can do to prevent a fire from starting is one less fire that has the potential to threaten homeowners."

**T** urely one form of prevention would be to rethink how we cele-Ubrate the Fourth of July. That is what Los Angeles and other cities across the wildfire anxious West have done. The city has transitioned away from the explosive "boom-boom-bang" public display to a drone show. Technicians program hundreds of small drones to offer a shape shifting performance that they synchronize to music and words. This year at Gloria Molina Grand Park, thousands of Angelenos watched as 800 drones dazzled. Robert Gonzalez, who helped orchestrate the event, told USA Today that "all your senses are involved — the sky, the sounds, the ambiance, making it all more enjoyable."

More enjoyable still — this innovative technology will help us clear the air.

Char Miller is a professor of environmental analysis and history at Pomona College, and author of the forthcoming book "Burn Scars: A Documentary History of Fire Suppression, from Colonial Origins to the Resurgence of Cultural Burning."