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LVMWD Board Declares State of Emergency

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Board of Directors approved an emergency declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic reassuring customers their water is safe and reliable.

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For Immediate Release

March 24, 2020

Calabasas, CA – Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Board of Directors adopted a resolution Tuesday morning declaring a state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The action is a decisive response to the quickly developing and dynamic circumstances surrounding the novel coronavirus, and its impacts on both public health and the economy. The emergency measures outlined in the declaration include:

- LVMWD customers will not have their water shut off. Water is essential to public health and the District will ensure its availability during this pandemic.
- Effective March 16th, the District closed its offices to the public until further notice to promote social distancing and protect staff.
- The District implemented a telecommuting policy to allow for applicable staff to work from home. Staff essential to water delivery and wastewater treatment operations are still on site, in staggered shifts, and adhering to social distancing recommendations.

“As a governing body, our job is to look out for the best interests of our communities,” commented LVMWD Board President and Chair of the Las Virgenes Triunfo Joint Powers Authority Board, Jay Lewitt. “We have taken into consideration the financial hardship our customers may face as a result of this virus, and we guarantee that their water is safe and will be available to them no matter what.”

Customers are required to continue paying their bills on time, in order to ensure essential District operations carry on, uninterrupted. Bill payment is available online at lvmwd.com or via phone at (844) 395-2240. The District offers payment plans for customers who may face financial difficulties during this time. No customer will have their water shut off.

“I also want to remind customers to be mindful of what they flush down the toilet,” said President Lewitt. “Disinfectant wipes should not be flushed, as they can result in sewer clogs which can cause sanitary sewer overflows into homes, businesses, and out of access covers into streets causing additional public health concerns. Anything that is not toilet paper should be disposed of in the trash can.”

Additionally, some customers have expressed concern over potentially exceeding their water budget as a result of household members being home around the clock. The State of California considers 55 gallons per person per day as the standard, whereas LVMWD's current water budget allows for twice the amount of water to be used – indoor and outdoor - before being charged a penalty rate. Increased hand washing and toilet flushing should have minimal impact on overall usage.

For more information on your water and COVID-19, please click www.lvmwd.com/COVID-19.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting to more than 70,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County.

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