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Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board Approves One-Day-Per-Week Irrigation Restriction

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Board unanimously approved a one-day-per-week watering restriction, beginning on June 1, 2022.

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Calabasas, CA – A unified LVMWD Board voted unanimously to approve a drought resolution, adopting Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD's) requirement to significantly reduce outdoor water usage. The District held a nearly five-hour virtual town hall meeting with more than 1,300 people last week to listen to concerns and feedback from its customers.

The LVMWD Board of Directors, along with District staff, carefully examined the implications of a one-day-per-week outdoor irrigation restriction and concluded that this approach provides the necessary framework to meet stringent conservation reduction targets implemented because of current water supply challenges and limitations of MWD infrastructure in delivering supplies from Diamond Valley Lake and the Colorado River Aqueduct.

"This is one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as a Board member," said Jay Lewitt, LVMWD Board President. "Our customers, like 6.6 million other Southern Californians, must take responsibility for our water usage to avoid even more strict outdoor irrigation restrictions that could come later this year. We need everyone to do their part."

California's water network of water infrastructure connects millions of people across hundreds of miles. Most Southern Californians receive their water from a variety of sources, including the State Water Project (SWP), Colorado River Aqueduct, Los Angeles Aqueduct, groundwater, or through water recycling. Although LVMWD is leader in water recycling for irrigation purposes, its service area lacks local supplies for drinking water and, therefore, is nearly exclusively reliant on imported water from SWP. The lack of precipitation, snowpack and runoff; higher temperatures; and low reservoir levels for three consecutive years have created an incredibly challenging circumstance that requires immediate reductions in water usage.

Nearly 70% of all residential water use is for outdoor irrigation, and the easiest reductions can be made outside of the home. Recently, LVMWD reduced customers' outdoor water budgets by 50%. This action will work in tandem with the one-day-per-week outdoor watering restriction. Residents with even addresses will be permitted to irrigate on Tuesdays, and those with odd addresses on Thursdays, for eight minutes per irrigation station. Exemptions to the restriction include the use of drip irrigation systems and hand watering. The District encourages customers to water trees by hand to provide them with enough water to survive.

“In my career as a water professional, I have never experienced water supply conditions that are this dire and critical,” said David Pedersen, General Manager of LVMWD. “I know we are used to the words ‘drought emergency’ and it may have lost its sense of urgency, but this is real, it’s happening, and we truly all must join in and do our part. We can only be successful if we do this together.”

To stay informed, visit www.lvmwd.com/droughtresponse

Be sure to follow LVMWD on Facebook, Twitter @lvmwd and Instagram @LasVirgenes_MWD to join the conversation.

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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