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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WATER  
DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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# Water Board Deactivates Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Redoubles Focus on Long-Term Water Use Efficiency

*Due to the historic rain and snowpack, LVMWD has rescinded the activation of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, while continuing to promote conservation as a California way of life.*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**April 19, 2023**

**Calabasas, CA** - At its regularly scheduled meeting, the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Board unanimously voted to rescind the activation of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan. This action means that the District is officially no longer in a state of water shortage. In February, the Board normalized water budgets and in March, the one day per week watering restriction was lifted.

Under a separate Board action, the LVMWD Administrative Code was modified to allow additional penalties if customers exceed more than double their monthly water budgets. Previously, a maximum penalty of \$5.00 per unit of water used over 200 percent of the water budget was applied after three or more billing periods with exceedances.

The changes to the Code establish an additional penalty of \$7.50 per unit after four exceedances and \$10.00 per unit after five or more exceedances. The Code was also modified so the "penalty count" is reset to zero on January 1st of each year, as opposed to previously being reset only when there was a change in the stage of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan activation. The reset gives customers a clean slate every year.

However, customers who continue to exceed their water budgets by more than double without making changes to their water use habits will be subject to the installation of a flow restriction device – up to 30 days for the first time, 90 days for the second time, and six months for the third and subsequent times.

One unit of water is equal to 748 gallons, the equivalent of a 10-foot by 10-foot room filled with one foot of water, or about 15 rain barrels. On average, LVMWD residential households use about 29 units (21,692 gallons) of water per month (22 units or 16,456 gallons per month during the drought). The average small swimming pool is about 15,000 gallons or about 20 units of water.

"Our customers exceeded expectations for water conservation throughout this last drought," stated Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs. "The vast majority of customers changed their behavior to use less water. Even though we have had historic precipitation this winter, we ask that everyone continue to use water efficiently and consider transforming their landscapes using climate-appropriate plants. This will help all of us be ready for the next drought. Conservation is a California Way of Life"

For more information and to stay informed on drought, conservation, and rebates, please visit [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com).

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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