

the current FLOW

Issue #2 ~ 2008



News for customers of
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

818.251.2100
www.LVMWD.com

HOW MUCH WATER DID YOU USE TODAY?

Take a guess at how much water a “typical” person uses each day. When posed with the question, there’s an interesting range of responses, but most people guess in the 30 to 50 gallon range. The true answer is considerably different and we’ll hold it until later in this story.

Did your calculations consider a daily shower or bath, shaving, brushing teeth, and routine flushes? How about using the dishwasher, washing machine and counting the water used for preparing meals? Did you add water used to irrigate your lawn & garden? Do you own a pool or spa

with an automatic refill? Did you wash a car or pet? How much water did you drink?

So what is the “magic number?” The average LVMWD customer uses about 150 gallons per person per day. How close was your guess? Remember some use more, some less. For example, a high-flow shower head uses 5 gallons per minute (gpm) or more. A low-flow showerhead is rated at 2.5 gpm. What you do does make a difference. Take a close look at how you use water and you may be surprised at how many ways there are to save.💧



SAVE WATER & REDUCE YOUR CARBON “FOOTPRINT”



The everyday choices we make can impact our natural resources in many ways. From our travel choices, to the water we use and even the food we consume, each “step” we take through a day leaves a carbon “footprint” of energy use. This is because most of the energy used to pump and treat water comes from the combustion of fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

A recent news story calculated how much water is needed to produce the popular American cheeseburger. The amounts shown include estimates of what it takes to grow and produce the identified products. Here’s a summary of the findings-

Hamburger bun **22 gallons** + Lettuce Leaf **1.5 gallons** + Tomato slice **3 gallons** + Cheese slice **56 gallons** + Beef patty **616 gallons** = Total **698.5 gallons**

Remember – it takes a lot of energy to pump water through our state to your home. Your conservation practices save more than water, they reduce your overall carbon “footprint.” 💧

LVMWD's Staff Scientist Honored for Environmental Excellence

LVMWD's Resource Conservation Manager, Dr. Randal Orton, has been named a recipient of the Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award for 2007 by the City of Calabasas Environmental Commission. Trisha Kane and Dave Brown were similarly honored by the Commission.

Dr. Orton's continual efforts in the environmental stewardship of the Malibu

Creek watershed were central to his selection for the honor. An LVMWD employee for nearly 15 years, he has conducted extensive research on Malibu Creek and its tributaries, sometimes donning SCUBA gear and a wetsuit to collect data first-hand. His contributions include work that helped to classify the steelhead trout as a federally listed endangered species. ♡



Photo credit: City of Calabasas

For Your Safety



When reading meters or responding to service calls, it may be necessary for a customer service representative to ring your doorbell. LVMWD Field Customer Service personnel carry District-issued identification cards that you may ask to see. If you need verification you are dealing with an LVMWD employee, you may call Customer Service at 818.251.2200 ♡

We're Looking for LVMWD's "Legacy" Customers

In the early days of LVMWD's history, there were no computers tracking customer records – everything was "analog" with paper files, service records and meter readings kept in cabinets. The



District grew and technology advanced; everything is now stored in a computer system. As a result, those early records are no longer available.

Were you a part of our early history? When did you move into the area? Please fill out the form below and send it to: Carol Palma, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302. Or give us a call at (818) 251-2104. Or visit our website www.LVMWD.com/feedback/index.cfm. ♡

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Year you became an LVMWD customer: _____

FREE Community Compost

*"Spring has sprung,
the grass has riz,
I wonder where
the flowers is?" - Anonymous*

The old children's poem aside, your flowers may be hiding because they're "hungry" for some compost!

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility has FREE, high quality, "Class A" nutrient-rich soil amendment made with recycled organic biosolids that can enhance your landscape, ornamental areas, lawns, and vegetable gardens.

Used as mulch, Community Compost discourages weeds and reduces water loss while it dresses up flower beds and shrub plantings. As an amendment, it provides a boost for new and established plantings, increases the water-holding capacity of light soils, increases soil aeration in heavy soils, reduces soil surface crusting and compaction.



To get a supply of Community Compost, visit our Rancho facility, 3700 Las Virgenes Road (at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Las Virgenes Road), any Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your own sealable containers such as trash bags with ties or a pickup with a tarp. We'll even provide the shovels to assist your loading. Call 818-251-2200 for information on bulk loads. ♡

Community Compost

... a nutrient rich soil amendment made with recycled organic biosolids.



DISPOSE OF PHARMACEUTICALS PROPERLY

A recent news story mentioned that some “trace” amounts of pharmaceuticals have been detected in the waters of various communities, prompting some readers to ask, “How did they get there in the first place?”

The most concentrated forms of pharmaceuticals are unused prescription drugs, often expired or out of date, that some homeowners simply flush down the toilet. LVMWD and water agencies across the country ask that you do not dispose of unused drugs in that fashion. Instead, seal the bottle cap with strong tape and place it in the trash for safe disposal in a landfill. This important step will help reduce the amount of pharmaceutical products flowing into the nation’s waters. 💧



How much is that?

Your water is continually tested and monitored to ensure it is safe. Water quality components are often measured and reported in parts per million, billion or trillion. But what do these really mean in terms we can understand?

Parts per Million (ppm)

- You clean a 10-gallon fish tank and 1 drop splashes out. **That’s 1 ppm.**
- You stock up with 10,000 boxes of facial tissue, each with 200 sheets, and use 2 sheets. **That’s 1 ppm.**



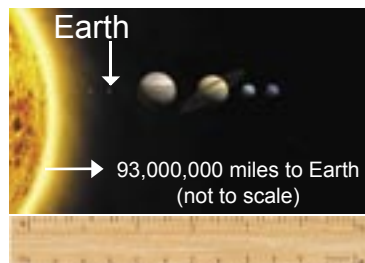
Parts per Billion (ppb)

- You inherit \$10 million. In counting it out, you discover 1 cent is missing. **That’s 1 ppb.**
- If you are 32 years old, you have lived about 1 billion seconds. Close your eyes for 1 second. **That’s 1 ppb.**



Parts per Trillion (ppt)

- Imagine you have to clean 500 swimming pools, each with 20,000 gallons. You splash out 1 drop from a pool. **That’s 1 ppt.**
- The sun is 93,000,000 miles away. You move 6 inches toward it. **That’s 1 ppt.** 💧



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Board Meetings are scheduled at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. See web site for meeting and agenda information.

The Current Flow is published six times each year to keep customers informed of water-related information and conservation practices.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment

4232 Las Virgenes Road

Calabasas, CA 91302

818.251.2200

www.LVMWD.com



At Your Service...



Watch for your Annual Water Quality Report

In late June, the 2007 Water Quality Report (WQR) will be mailed to all LVMWD customers. It will include information on all drinking water parameters and monitoring done to ensure your drinking water is safe.

The WQR will also be available at LVMWD headquarters and on-line at www.LVMWD.com.



THE MISSING PIECE

How much water is required to produce a cheeseburger?

Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or visit our web site at www.LVMWD.com and send your answer through *Feedback and Inquiries*. Prizes awarded monthly to ten winners randomly selected from the correct responses.

Watch for the answer in the next issue of *The Current Flow*.

Previous issue's **MISSING PIECE**:

Who is responsible for the water meter that supplies your drinking water?

LVMWD

Manzanitas

This group of native woody plants, with interesting red bark and urn-shaped flowers, is a gardener's favorite. Making up a major portion of the chaparral hillsides, they are excellent choices for water-efficient landscapes. Many varieties are available ranging from groundcover to large shrubs and small trees.

Bigberry Manzanita* *Arctostaphylos glauca grande rubescens*

An excellent slope stabilizer, large light pink blossoms in late winter to early spring are accented by deep red twisted bark; attractive berries follow. 8-12' h x 8 - 12' w



Island Manzanita® *Arctostaphylos insularis*

Often treelike, with cinnamon brown bark, broad bright green leaves and white flowers in loose clusters. Prefers well-drained soil. 3-8' h x 5-8' w



Bearberry or Kinnikinnick® *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

A natural for gardens with its dense, low mounds or mats, trailing over rocks and walls. Slow growing, the young bark is reddish and flowers are light pink. 1' h x 2-3' w



Common Manzanita* *Arctostaphylos Manzanita*

Crooked branching limbs, with smooth purplish-red bark and small green oval leaves. Generous clusters of white flowers followed by white fruit that turns red. 6-20' h x 4-10' w



For more information on these waterwise plants, go to the Conservation section of our web site - www.LVMWD.com. Or to find a local retailer to purchase native plants, go to [BeWaterWise \(http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html\)](http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html).

Photo Credits: *Brother Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College; © Charles E. Jones; # Charles Webber, California Academy of Sciences