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**State Alerts Water Agencies to Prepare for Continuing
Dry Conditions; LVMWD Requests Customers
Practice Conservation Measures**

CALABASAS, CA October 3, 2013 – The California Department of Water

Resources has issued a statement that if there is a third consecutive dry winter season; water supplies throughout the state could be significantly impacted.

The early rains of the 2012-13 winter season brought much promise to the state's water supply picture, but that optimism was dashed with unusually dry weather from January onward. As a result, reservoirs did not fill to normal levels and the lack of snow in the Sierra watershed did not fully replenish supplies used in 2012. As a result, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) reduced its allocation to contract agencies for the current "water year" to 35 percent. The warm weather of 2013 has placed an additional strain on supplies, leaving most of the state's major reservoirs well below normal levels at this time of year.

LVMWD is entirely dependent upon drinking water supplies purchased from the Metropolitan Water District; a portion of that supply is imported from Northern California. "What happens in the Sierra watershed has a direct effect on Southern California," said David W. Pedersen, LVMWD's General Manager. "We'll be monitoring this winter's precipitation very closely."

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Mr. Pedersen emphasized that LVMWD is not declaring a shortage at this time, largely due to the significant investment Metropolitan has made in local storage over the last ten years. “But we need customers to review their water-use practices, especially their outdoor water use, which tends to be the largest component of most single family residences.”

LVMWD currently offers cash incentives for customers to install newer High Efficiency Toilets, water-efficient clothes washers, weather-based irrigation controllers and water-efficient irrigation sprinkler heads. The District is considering additional incentives to help customers achieve higher water-use efficiency. Customers can check on available rebate programs and qualification criteria at the District’s website, www.LVMWD.com.

The dry conditions have also forced LVMWD to add recycled water to Malibu Creek in order to provide habitat for downstream threatened species, notably the steelhead trout. Mr. Pedersen said the District has had to augment the creek flow for several months, being careful to provide sufficient water for the habitat pools but not so much that it reaches Malibu Lagoon. “It’s a delicate balance,” he said. “We would prefer to be sending that recycled water back to the community to be used for irrigation, but protecting threatened species is important, and a requirement that’s written into our operating permit.” Because of the hot, dry weather, several stretches of the Malibu Creek watershed are entirely dry.

The District also reminds customers of the following water conservation measures that are already in effect:

- Irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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- Irrigation may not run off the property into streets, gutters or onto adjacent properties.
- The washing down of sidewalks, parking areas and driveways is not permitted, unless an approved water broom is used.
- A trigger nozzle is required on hoses used for home car washing.
- Irrigation may not occur during periods of rain or in the 24 hours following rainfall of an inch or more.
- Hotels & motels must give multi-night guests the option to retain towels and linens during their stay.

Repeated violations of the policies can result in fines up to \$250 or even result in the termination of service.

Mr. Pedersen added, “The most recent drought saw our customers reduce District-wide water use by better than 20 percent. However, in recent years, usage has been creeping up to pre-drought levels. We ask that customers rediscover their water-saving mindset and consider re-landscaping their homes with more “California Friendly” varieties that are both attractive and water-efficient.”

Las Virgenes MWD provides potable water, wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting services to residents of the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and adjacent unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

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