

The

Current

FLOW

News for customers of
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District



Issue #3 - 2014

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Stay current on water issues, tours, conservation, and more, follow us on:



Managing DROUGHT

What Can We Do?

With the warm weather months upon us, reducing water use is critical.

We may not be able to control when or where it rains but we do have the ability to preserve our stored water supplies. With the entire state facing a third year of drought, everyone has a role in reducing water use wherever possible.

A Wise Investment

Our region, along with much of California, is currently meeting its water needs by drawing from stored supplies. Following the drought of the early 1990's, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (LVMWD's wholesale supplier) invested nearly \$6 billion in storage projects.

A portion of what you pay for water service helped fund those projects. Without these stored resources, the effects of the current drought would be much more severe. However, just like a family savings account set aside for

financial emergencies, our water "savings account" is limited. Since we don't know what the next rainy season will bring, the water we save now may turn out to be water we absolutely need next year. Also remember that when rains do come, thirsty reservoirs and aquifers will have to be replenished.

Drought Factoids

- 2013 was the driest year on record.
- Sierra snowpack 18% of normal on May 1.
- Many Central Valley farms unable to plant crops.
- Almond, avocado and citrus orchards at risk.
- Food prices expected to increase.

Outdoor water use remains the largest single usage component of most LVMWD customers. Consider removing some or all of the area where turf grass is present. (See rebate information elsewhere in this issue.)

(continued inside)

New! Higher Rebate and Back Yards Now Qualify!



If you were "on the fence" as to removing some or all of your lawn, LVMWD has now "sweetened the deal" with a larger rebate of \$2 per square foot and a greater square footage allowance.

It's now possible to get thousands of dollars toward replacing that water-guzzling lawn. For details, go to: www.lvmwd.com/for-customers/conservation/rebate-programs/mow-no-mow, or use the handy QR code with your smartphone or tablet device. ♡



Drought (continued from front page)

Be sure your irrigation system is operating properly, without leaks, broken or poorly aimed sprinkler heads. Make sure there is no runoff from your property. Check your automatic timer to be sure it's set properly and make sure it has a fresh backup battery.

Do not drain and refill pools or spas. Consider a pool cover to reduce evaporation. Ask pool users to limit splashing that results in water loss.

One State – Working Together

Regions with limited or depleted storage resources have already implemented stringent conservation measures. Many farms have been forced to reduce crops and livestock herds. Thousands who depend on agriculture will not be able to find work.



The official 2014
California hose

Swamp: don't spray, because Californians Don't Waste.

**Irrigation is prohibited
between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

*For more information on actions you
can take that will make a difference,
visit www.saveourh2o.org*

On April 25, Governor Brown issued a Proclamation that included the following-

Limit irrigation to no more than twice per week.

Discontinue the use of fountains or water features that do not use recycled water.

Patronize local car washes that reuse water.

Homeowner Associations may not fine or threaten to fine homeowners who comply with conservation measures adopted by a public agency or private water company.💧

REBATES

Flushing Money? Or Flush With Money?

Do you have an older toilet that uses more water than necessary? In most homes, toilets are the highest indoor water-using devices. The latest High Efficiency Toilets (HETs) use just 1.28 gallons per flush; some use even less.

If you have an older toilet, or even one of the early "low flow" toilets that use 1.6 gallons or more for each flush, you can qualify for a \$50 rebate on each new HET you install in your home. For details, go to www.socalwatersmart.com and get a list of qualifying models BEFORE you buy.



The new HETs work great and they'll start saving money – and water – from the moment you put them in place.

"Clean Up" with Laundering Money – And It's Legal!

If you have an older washing machine, think about replacing it with a new High Efficiency model.

Old washers can use 40 to 50 gallons per load. Some newer models use less than half that - just 15 to 20 gallons. Multiply the number of loads you do each week times the number of gallons saved and you'll see those numbers get very large over the course of a year! Not only will you save water and money, you can get \$110 toward the purchase of that new washer. Clothes come out cleaner, dryer and you use less detergent. 💧



Photos courtesy of Department of Water Resources

Construction Projects Update



The Mureau Rd. Pipeline in Calabasas is complete. An important link in the District's "Backbone Improvement Program," the new 30-inch pipeline is now in service, in time for the heavy summer-season demand.

The 5-million-gallon tank at Las Virgenes Reservoir, anchoring the west end of the "Backbone Improvement Program" is on schedule with its projected completion in mid- 2015. Excavation for the tank's foundation is nearly done and new pipeline supports across the saddle dam are in place.



The third digester at Rancho Las Virgenes is in its final construction stages, with work being done on the pumping station and control systems. When finished, this project will add capacity to the wastewater treatment process and allow for maintenance to be done on the original two digester units, which have been in continual service for over 20 years.💧

*Las Virgenes
Municipal Water District
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*You may direct communications to
LVMWD Board members by sending
an e-mail to:
board@lvmwd.com*

*Board meetings are scheduled at
5 p.m. on the second and fourth
Tuesday of each month.*

*Las Virgenes - Triunfo JPA meets first
Monday of the month at 5 p.m.*

*Check the website for meeting and
agenda information.*

*Customer Service -
818.251.2200*

*After hours emergency -
818.251.2100*

*Construction Hotline -
818.251.2180*

*Rancho Las Virgenes
Composting Facility*

***Free Compost Pickup
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.***

*Rebate Information
www.LVMWD.com ~ Conservation*

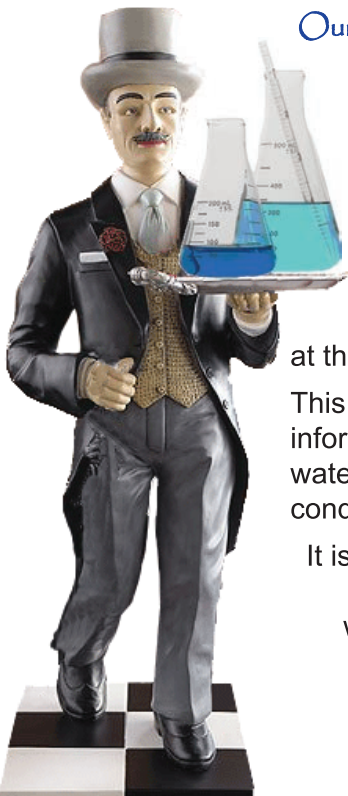
*Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment
Biosolids Composting*



4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
www.LVMWD.com

At Your Service...

Our Report to You!



The 2014 annual Water Quality Report was mailed to every resident in the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District service area at the end of June.

This report contains information about drinking water quality tests conducted in 2013.

It is also available on our website @ www.LVMWD.com.

THE MISSING PIECE



What is the largest single component of water usage for most LVMWD customers?

Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or send to dlow@LVMWD.com with **"Missing Piece"** in the subject line. **Please include your mailing address in case you are a winner!** 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** answer:

How much water does a "typical" LVMWD household use in a year?

Answer: A "typical" LVMWD household uses about 326,000 gallons per year.

Colorful Drought-Resistant Plants

As the current drought continues, consider using these festive water-saving plants for summertime color, instead of plants that require more water. These examples are easy to care for, grow well in containers, and will save on irrigation costs.

Echeveria subrigida

A Mexican native, this variety forms large rosettes with elongated leaves, edged in dark pink; flowers from late spring to summer. 9-12" h x 1-2' w



*Echeveria*³⁸

*Dudleya*³⁸



Dudleya brittonii

This Baja California native grows large rosettes with reddish flower stalks that will become prostrate with age; a white powdery coating on leaves adds to the allure. 1-2' h x 1.5' w

Agave attenuata

Native to Mexico, this variety of agave produces gray-green, spineless leaves; dramatic 12' tall arching spikes are covered in green-yellow flowers. 2-5' h x 6-8' w



*Fox Tail Agave*³⁸

*Watch Chain*³⁸



Crassula mucosa

In addition to this plant's bright green color, the small leaves form in rows on the stems creating an unusual visual effect. 1' h x 1' w

For more information, go to www.LVMWD.com/Conservation/Native Plant Guide or check out the Garden and Landscape Classes. To find a local retailer to purchase native plants, go to BeWaterWise (<http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html>).

Photo Credit: ³⁸ Zoya Akulova