

The

Current FLOW

News for customers of
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District



Issue #3 - 2015

Special Drought Edition What's In This Issue:

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Drought Situation "Serious" - Additional Conservation Needed

A message to LVMWD Customers from General Manager David W. Pedersen



While water efficiency has become routine for many of us, this is a time when we need to call on our customers to take extraordinary measures to deal with the state's record drought. In the months ahead, all of us are going to be challenged to use less water, particularly outdoors, and working together will carry the day.

On April 1st, the Governor issued an Executive Order calling for a mandatory 25% reduction in potable urban water usage across the state. A week later, the State Water Board released its preliminary regulatory framework to implement the Governor's Order, assigning reduction percentages to the state's 411 urban water suppliers. Based on our service area's residential per capita water usage, LVMWD is slated for a 36 percent reduction. In addition, the Metropolitan Water District, our regional wholesale water supplier, has implemented its "allocation plan" that will result in stiff penalties for usage above the limit.

**State Mandates 36%
Reduction for LVMWD**

So where are we?

Overall, water usage in our area is down, but not enough. We recognize that some customers have cut their use significantly, and we thank them. Customers who have been saving water will not be penalized by "across the board" reductions based on previous usage. In the 2008-09 drought, LVMWD customers reduced water usage by over 20%. However, this drought is setting new records for California, and we have not yet matched those previous conservation levels. Clearly, there are customers who can do more. Our service area has a reputation for responding in times of need and working together; we need to make that happen again.

(continued inside)

Drought Checklist

- Reduce irrigation times
- Remove or decrease turf areas*
- Consider eliminating an irrigation zone
- Adjust sprinklers to eliminate runoff
- Install drip irrigation for trees, shrubs and bushes
- Install a weather-based irrigation controller*
- Inspect for leaks and repair them immediately
- Replace older washer with new high-efficiency model*
- Wash only full loads of clothes or dishes
- Replace older toilets that use 1.6 gpf or more*

* Rebates available for these items – see www.LVMWD.com

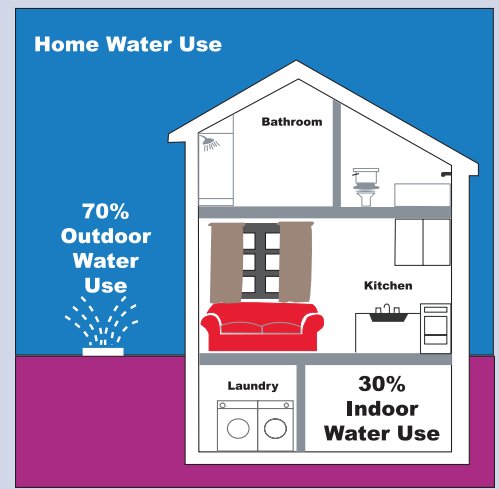
Special Drought Edition

How Much Should We Reduce?

LVMWD knows many customers have already made significant reductions in their water usage inside their homes. Some residents have made changes in their landscape, using the “Mow No Mow” program to help with the change. A lot has been done to make some big changes, but we have to do more to meet new mandates.

If you have reduced your water use and are efficient, you will not be penalized or mandated to make additional reductions.

However, in order for the District to meet that state’s goal, customers must reduce outdoor use by half. 💧



Recycled Water Irrigation is OK

Golf courses, common areas of many housing developments, parks, campuses and some highway landscapes all benefit by irrigating with recycled water, making use of a renewed resource. With drought response measures on everyone’s mind, we’re often asked if recycled water irrigation falls under drought measures.

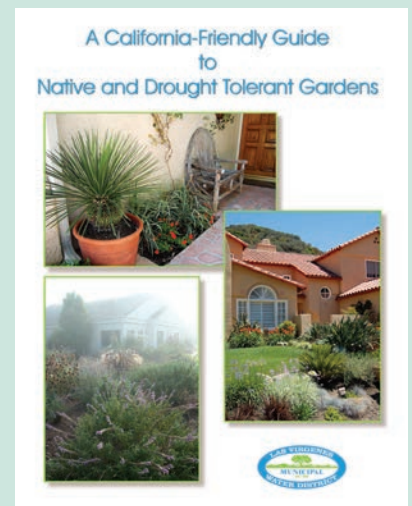
The beneficial use of recycled water makes good sense for another reason, in that LVMWD is not permitted to discharge recycled water to Malibu Creek from April 15 to November 15. In fact, when there’s too much recycled water available, the excess supply is applied to spray fields along Las Virgenes Road. Therefore, using it to irrigate the areas listed above serves a dual purpose. As a result, recycled water customers may have a different watering schedule than allowed for potable water customers. Last year, about 20 percent of the water delivered by LVMWD was recycled, which reduces the demand for potable water. 💧

Choosing Landscape

Homeowners considering a change in their landscape would do well to consider the many varieties of “California Friendly” or native plants that are drought-tolerant.

LVMWD offers a free color catalog of plants that can enhance the appearance of any home. Pick one up at LVMWD HQ, during business hours, download it from the LVMWD website or by using the handy QR code with your wireless device, so you can take it along when you shop for plants.

<http://www.lvmwd.com/for-customers/conservation/a-california-friendly-guide> 💧



LVMWD Speaker’s Bureau Ready to Respond

Want the latest info on the drought situation, how you can respond or how “water budgets” will work? The LVMWD Speaker’s Bureau is ready to make a presentation, day or evening, to your HOA, service club, alumni group or fraternal organization. Call 818-251-2124 during business hours to book a date for this free service. 💧

Special Drought Edition

Drought Situation “Serious” (continued from front)

What can you do?

This is a perfect time to consider replacing turf with “California-Friendly” drought-tolerant plants. The District offers a \$2.00 per square foot incentive to get it done through its “Mow-No-Mow” Program. Also, take “control” of your irrigation controller, back off on watering frequency and duration, eliminate runoff, and fix leaks. This will help you get ahead of the curve because additional outdoor watering restrictions will likely be necessary in the near-term. For more conservation tips and resources, visit www.LVMWD.com.

A Long-Term Solution

Finally, LVMWD’s current effort to transition to budget-based water rates is becoming increasingly important. A “water budget” will be developed for each home in the service area based on the number of residents, irrigated area, and other factors affecting water usage such as maintaining horses. Those who stay within budget will pay the lowest rates; those who are wasteful will pay more. It will take the remainder of 2015 and substantial additional customer outreach to make it happen.

The system has been used elsewhere and is both well-received and effective in reducing wasteful water use. In the meantime, please do your utmost to reduce usage.

Thank you for your support in responding to this challenge.💧



David W. Pedersen, P.E.
General Manager



Las Virgenes
Municipal Water District
Board of Directors

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Division 2
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General Manager
David W. Pedersen, P. E.

District Counsel
Wayne K. Lemieux

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 & Drought Hotline -
818.251.2180

StopTheWaste@LVMWD.com

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. . .

Fraud Alert

Beware of Telephone Demands for Payment

There have been reports of incidents where customers have been called demanding instant payment or service will be cut off. Sometimes these callers say they're from a water company that includes the name of a city and they also want a credit card transaction as a form of payment.

If you receive such a call and you're unsure of what to do, hang up and call LVMWD Customer Service at 818-251-2200.

Who's at My Door?

Another scam being used is when two or more persons knock on the door, claiming to be from the water district and wanting to enter the home to investigate a leak. Once inside, these fraudsters separate and take valuables. LVMWD personnel never seek to enter your home. District employees carry distinctive photo IDs and drive marked vehicles. If you are unsure of whom you are speaking with, close the door and contact the Sheriff's Department.💧



THE MISSING PIECE

How much will LVMWD reimburse customers for removing each square foot of turf under the District's "Mow No Mow" program?



Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or send to LittleDrop@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:

What is the water capacity of the newly-refurbished Calabasas storage tank?

Answer: 8 million gallons 💧

Hardy Water-Wise Plants

Working towards changing your garden to a more California-Friendly and drought tolerant garden, you may consider using one of these hardy natives. They are water efficient and will help reduce your irrigation costs.💧

Arctostaphylos glauca

Bigberry Manzanita¹

Evergreen shrub; attractive deep red twisted bark; abundant light pink flowers during winter and spring; hardy to 10 -15°F. 8-12' h x 8-12' w



California Buckwheat²⁵ *Eriogonum fasciculatum*



Small evergreen shrub; summer and fall blooms of pinkish flower clusters turn rusty red; attractive to butterflies; hardy to around 15°F. 3-5' h x 6' w

Zauschneria (Epilobium) canum **California Fuchsia⁴⁴**

Small evergreen shrub; suitable for groundcover; brilliant scarlet tubular flowers in summer and fall; attractive to hummingbirds; hardy to 15°F. 1' h x 4' w



Evergreen Currant²⁷ *Ribes viburnifolium*



Evergreen shrub; fragrant dark green leaves; light pink to purplish flowers in winter and spring; suitable for under oaks; hardy to 15 – 20°F. 3-4' h x 6' w

For more information, go to www.LVMWD.com/for-customers/conservation/a-california-friendly-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: ¹ Brother Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College ²⁵ Michael W. Tuma; ²⁷ Steve Matson; ⁴⁴ Jean Pawek