

NEWS CLIPS

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Resource Conservation and Public Outreach

Organized by date

California meets water savings target for third month

Source: Ventura County Star



FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Californians cut water use by 27 percent in August, marking the third consecutive month that residents and businesses surpassed the 25 percent conservation goal set by Gov. Jerry Brown to deal with the relentless drought, officials said Thursday.

The figures released by the State Water Resources Control Board showed a slight decrease in savings from the 31 percent posted for July — a development that raised concerns among some officials.

However, board chair Felicia Marcus said the slippage was not completely surprising given the heavy rains that drenched Southern California in July and prompted people to turn off sprinklers.

"The fact the numbers didn't drop precipitously shows that people get it," she said. "In a crisis people pull together and they hang in there."

The savings figures were derived by comparing current usage to levels from the same period of 2013, the year before Brown declared a drought emergency.

The board also released figures showing how much water was saved by communities and how that compared to the state conservation mandate given to each area.

A total of 406 water suppliers reported water use in August. The figures showed that six communities missed mandated targets by more than 15 percent.

Regulators have given alternative targets to two of the communities, including Livingston, where a large chicken processing plant has counteracted conservation by the 15,000 residents.

Regulators have been considering imposing fines on communities that consistently fail to meet goals. The penalties could begin early next year, said Max Gomberg, a senior climate scientist for the state water board.

Regulators also say they are working to help cities and water districts meet targeted cuts. Some communities, however, are not expected to meet the goals, Gomberg said.

"We will issue some fines," he said. "That is definitely on the table."

Officials say 72 percent of water suppliers did meet their conservation standard. Among the top performers were the city of Morgan Hill near San Jose, which used nearly 43 percent less water, and the California Water Service Co. Selma near Fresno, which reduced water use by 40 percent.

Some of the state's largest cities also reported meeting their mandates.

Officials in Los Angeles said the city saw savings of 17 percent in August, beating its target of 16 percent. Fresno reported a 28 percent drop, hitting its requirement.

Water use in San Diego was 21 percent lower, officials said, exceeding its mandated cutback of 16 percent.

Gomberg warned that Californians can't be distracted by hype involving a coming El Nino weather pattern.

He said an El Nino doesn't guarantee a wet winter for California and urged people to keep saving water.

Gomberg said climate change — signaled by warmer temperatures, a low snowpack and intense wildfires — has made water conservation an ongoing effort.

"Climate change is not something that's happening in the future," Gomberg said. "California is already dealing with the impacts."

Low pressure Sunday to bring cooler temps, possible rain

Source: Ventura County Star 10/2/15



VENTURA COUNTY, Calif. - The National Weather Service reported that light rain might be coming Sunday to Ventura County.

The Weather Service reported that high pressure building over the area will keep a warm air mass in place through Saturday. A low pressure will then move in for Sunday and Monday. This will bring cooler temperatures and the opportunity for rain and mountain snow.

Friday will be sunny with highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s. The highs for Saturday will be in the mid 70s to lower 80s and upper 70s to mid 80s further inland.

Light rain could arrive Sunday and continue through Monday night or Tuesday morning, dropping a 10th to a third of an inch, forecasters said.

Offshore flow developing beneath high pressure aloft will likely bring a warming and drying trend for late next week, according to the National Weather Service.

Camarillo to host forum on city's water supply

Source: Ventura County Star 10/2/15



CAMARILLO, Calif. - From staff reports

City officials in Camarillo will hold a community forum at 7 p.m. Monday on the state of the city's water supply.

The presentation at the Camarillo Library will cover state water-usage caps as well as the city's long-term plan for water and its policy that new development not affect current water customers.

The public is invited to attend and will have the chance to comment on the information provided.

The library is at 4101 E. Las Posas Road. For more information, contact City Clerk Jeffrie Madland at 388-5316 or jmadland@cityofcamarillo.org.

Drought changes landscaping industry

Source: LA Times 10/2/15

“Mow, blow and go” is still the order of business for most lawn-maintenance companies, but as more grass is being replaced with drought-tolerant plants, the landscape and the tasks needed to maintain them are changing.

Shrubs need pruning and ever-present weeds need pulling. More of these types of duties could actually increase the time a gardener is on site, while new designs that effectively catch rainwater runoff could reduce the need for sprinkler irrigation.

“Re-educating homeowners and landscape companies about bioswales, rain gardens and gray-water irrigation is what we are trying to do,” said Laura Maher, 40, co-founder of Eco Restoration Partners in Camarillo. “We take a watershed-wise approach to the topography and grading of the house. Normally homes are graded to push the water away, so the water doesn’t damage the home. However the concept of slowing, sinking and spreading of rain water is what we are trying to achieve, so you don’t need outside irrigation if you design and plant right.”

It’s not exclusively about planting cactus, a living symbol of drought tolerance. Shrubs such as devil’s trumpet (botanical name: *datura*) and Brazilian sky flower (botanical name: *duranta*) are popular and drought tolerant.

“People think drought tolerant and imagine the Arizona desert, but that is not the case,” said Michelle Solties, 53, owner of Premier Tree and Landscape in Simi Valley. “We use flowering shrubs like kangaroo paw and feather cassia, and cover like blonde ambition grass. To learn even more, BeWaterWise.com offers information on drought-tolerant landscaping and using less water.”

According to a report from the State Water Resources Control Board released in late August, California cities are cutting their water use. Cities cut water use by a combined 31 percent in July, exceeding the governor’s statewide mandate of 25 percent.

Knowing how and when to water is crucial. For example, a drip line that outputs one-gallon of water per hour is often used for shrubs. “But if the shrub requires 15 gallons of water, and you run the drip line for 15 minutes, you are only giving the shrub a quart of water,” said Carl Brodock, 52, nursery manager for Elegant Gardens Nursery, a wholesale grower founded in 1999 that utilizes 25 acres in Moorpark. “You need to run that drip line for 15 hours. Then you might not need to water again for two weeks.”

Lawns can greatly benefit from a similar watering pattern. Fescue grass lawns, which many people in Ventura County have, can set roots 3 feet deep. Saturating the soil to a depth of 3 feet means the lawn can go 10 days or more without watering.

Products such as Turf Rescue made by Agromin in Oxnard can also help homeowners use less water on their lawns. Turf Rescue is a blend of Cool Planet’s CoolTerra biochar and Agromin’s Compost 100 organic soil that keeps lawns green while using a reported 35 percent less water.

Biochar is a highly porous charcoal-like material that improves moisture and nutrient retention in soil.

“Turf Rescue helps your lawn retain water and nutrients,” said Mike Zwerner, in sales and marketing for Agromin. “Whatever type of grass you have — fescue or St. Augustine crab grass — will stay greener with less water. Your lawn service can help you put down Turf Rescue, because first you need to aerate your lawn and then spread out Turf Rescue.”

Premier Tree and Landscape brings an English garden look to a Simi Valley home.

Explaining how roots work and how to irrigate effectively is important to the success of Maher’s and Solties’ services. Because there are ways to help your lawn thrive with less water, hastily ripping out plants and starting fresh may be a mistake, because drought-tolerant plants may already been on your property.

“We work with the plants already thriving, and also find native plants that coexist, and then use wood chips and gravel to create pathways to nowhere,” Solties said. “In order to break up the yard we put in a pathway that ends at the side of the house or at a wall. We may design the yard into quadrants and use the paths to make it more interesting.”

Taking rainwater off roofs, driveways and streets and channeling it into bioswales and rain gardens not only helps use rain more efficiently and keep it from simply draining into the ocean, but it also filters out pollutants that could cause harm to living things.

“A 1,000-square-foot roof can capture 600 gallons from one inch of rain,” Maher said. “So the home rain gutter is a key component to passive or active water capture. Bioswales, earth gutters and rain gardens filter the silt and pollutants from surface runoff, and then vegetation is planted on the side. Those roots tie into the swale and live off the water.”

Maher said 2015 is the International Year of Soils, and that soil is the most undervalued resource on the planet.

“Our air has too much carbon and our ocean acidification is related to too much carbon,” Maher said. “Yet our soil is carbon starved, so connecting the dots with these three elements and using that bioswale to filter pollution means the answer to climate change is under our feet.”

Drought is on, rates are up

Source: The Acorn 10/1/15

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is planning higher rates—again.

A new budget-based billing system will reflect the higher cost of water and encourage residents to conserve. It also helps the agency recoup what it pays for the scarce commodity.

The plan is expected to be approved later this month and go into effect in January, with scheduled increases through 2020.

Under the new billing, factors such as weather, property size, amount of landscaping, number of occupants and the presence of livestock will be used to determine how much customers will pay for potable water.

The budgeted amounts will change from month to month to reflect seasonal needs for outdoor watering.

The water district's general manager, David Pedersen, said that if the plan is adopted, rates will still be the lowest in the region for the "typical" customer.

In response to the drought, ratepayers have already reduced their water use significantly. As revenues drop, the water district said the new billing and price structure will allow it to meet costs and keep services intact.

In the past, LVMWD has employed a tiered-pricing system by which the cost of water increases as consumption rises. The new plan gives each customer a personalized water budget intended to meet their indoor and outdoor needs. It rewards efficient water use and helps reduce waste, officials said.

The district used aerial photography to assess land-use needs and create the individual customer budgets. Ratepayers were also asked to specify how many people live in their homes.

Sanitation charges will also be based on the number of people living in a household.

Almost 40 percent of the water district's budget goes toward utilities, infrastructure, and employee salaries and benefits. The other 60 percent is for potable water purchases from LVMWD's whole supplier, Metropolitan Water District.

"We are not in the business of selling water; we are in the business of providing reliable service. The rate proposal reflects this important paradigm shift," Pedersen said.

Customers will mostly see an increase in their overall cost. The higher bills come on the heels of three straight years of rate hikes reflecting higher charges from Metropolitan.

To help ratepayers understand how the proposed rates compare to their existing charges, LVMWD set up a rate-estimation calculator and comparison tool on its website.

Customers can input what they pay now and calculate what their new bill might be, although district spokesperson Jeff Reinhardt said the new billing method “does not lend itself to a direct ‘apples to apples’ comparison.”

In September the water district began sending out monthly bills. It had previously billed customers every two months.

LVMWD will hold a community hearing on the new billing at 6:30 p.m. Wed., Oct. 7 at the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center, 27040 Malibu Hills Road.

The water district will hold a final public hearing and possible vote at 6 p.m. Mon., Oct. 26 at LVMWD headquarters on Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas.

Las Virgenes water district provides potable and recycled water, wastewater services and composting for residents and businesses in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Westlake Village and Hidden Hills, and in the surrounding unincorporated portions of western Los Angeles County.

Drought prolongs allergy season

Source: The Acorn 10/1/15

Allergy season in Southern California usually begins in March, peaks in April and is mostly over by May.

But the region's four-year dry spell has changed the usual seasonal patterns, extending the allergy season well into summer and beyond, allergy specialists say.

"There have been a lot patients coming into the office in recent weeks," said allergist Dr. Mary Gianos, who offers people coming to her with itchy eyes, scratchy throats and drippy noses the same explanation for their overall miserableness.

Blame the drought, said Gianos, who has a 20-year practice in Camarillo.

"We allergists feel the drought does play a role," she said. "With the lack of water, trees and plants are more stressed, so they tend to release more pollen. Plus, when it rains, which we have had very little of, that tends to clear the air of pollen and gives some relief to patients."

Excessive heat baked the southern part of the state in August, which also was the hottest globally averaged August ever recorded since forecasters began keeping track in 1880, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In Ventura County, rainfall amounts so far this year have totaled less than 10 inches to date, compared to 14 in a normal year, according to the county's Watershed Protection District.

Pinpointing what might be triggering the recent uptick in local allergy cases is more complicated than checking rainfall figures, however. Even experts disagree over whether hot and dry conditions contribute to or help relieve allergy symptoms.

Although pollen can travel further when the weather is dry and windy, increasing allergy symptoms, a lack of rain can be a good thing for sufferers, according to the Weather Channel.

Dry conditions and drought can reduce allergens, since fewer pollen-producing plants would be growing during a drought, the forecasting website said.

"If you are allergic to molds, however, the dry and hot weather may lift spores from the soil into the air, potentially making your allergies worse," the Weather Channel said.

According to AccuWeather, however, a lack of rain can make an allergy sufferer as miserable in the winter as in the spring.

"When there is no rain, pollen stays floating in the air," Accu-Weather said.

Pollen counts and pollen forecasts for Ventura County for the first week of October showed plenty of the microscopic particles in the air, but not from trees and grasses.

Tree and grass pollen counts continue to be low, as they were in September and August, according to weather.com. But ragweed pollen counts were “very high” at the start of October.

That could be bad news for people who experience allergic reactions to ragweed pollen, a condition known as hay fever. Ragweed pollen counts increase from August through November, according to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

People with severe symptoms should see a specialist, who can recommend antihistamines and other allergy medications that aren’t available for purchase over the counter, Gianos said.

Allergy sufferers also can get a skin test to determine what’s triggering their reaction, she said.

“Once we know what’s triggering their allergy, then we can recommend a treatment plan for the patient,” said Gianos.

EDITORIAL

Choppy waters ahead for regional, state economy

The California Lutheran University Center for Economic Research and Forecasting recently released its 2015 third-quarter report, and while California remains on a roll, doing better than the rest of the nation, the state's economic growth is destined to slow as stock market turbulence takes its toll.

According to the report, California's budget surplus is likely to disappear, continuing the state's penchant for either a feast or famine economy. It all has to do with income tax volatility. One percent of the state's population pays about half of all income taxes, the report says, and if they have a bad year, California will have a worse year. Right now, stock market investors are having a bad year.

"It's a self-reinforcing boom and bust cycle of ever-increasing revenue volatility," says Bill Watkins, CERF executive director.

"California's susceptibility to asset volatility is California's best-kept secret. That needs to change."

Hopefully, some kind of rainy-day fund is still intact.

Watkins says the past year's good times are a façade.

"California's leaders are basking in glory. They believe that the job growth and the surplus validate their policies. They refuse to see the dark side. There is a dark side for jobs and the budget."

Will the storm clouds on the horizon have a trickle-down effect locally? (If it's real rain, yes, we'll take it! If it's fewer jobs, we want no part of it.)

Residents of the Conejo Valley feel insulated from the woes of China and the pain of the stock market. New commercial projects continue to come on line—the Calabasas hotel and Agoura Hills Chesebro

luxury homes, for example—and local job growth is likely to continue, although probably at a slower rate than in the past two years.

But of course what goes up must come down, and clearly the post-recession boom, statewide and region-wide, appears to be losing steam. What's different from the last major downturn, however, is that the housing market is still strong and the mortgage business healthy.

Ventura County home values have risen 4.4 percent over the past year, Zillow reports, and are expected to go up another 2.9 percent in the coming year. But locally, a comfortable retirement by baby boomers and home ownership by young people are hard goals to achieve, and that's disconcerting.

Still no reason to panic, experts say. Just keep working, keep saving and don't get sick. It's easy, right?

Costly bridge

Source: The Acorn 10/1/15

I live in Liberty Canyon and own a property that the mountain lions use to migrate. I am definitely in favor of supporting the balance of nature, but once again our good intentions for the environment have been convoluted by bad math.

The proposed \$60-million bridge will most likely be over budget. Can anyone remember a public works project of this scale that arrived on budget?

But let's assume it does meet the budget, and the interest on that was probably 4 to 5 percent in municipal bonds or other costs: Using the lower number to be kind would equal \$2.4 million each year in interest.

Why don't we pay two fulltime park rangers \$65,000 a year (\$130,000) and every few months put a mountain lion to sleep with a tranquilizer dart and carry it across to its new habitat? The lion wakes up groggy but better than dead from a car. Motorists don't get traumatized or injured by hitting an animal crossing the freeway.

Taxpayers can use the \$60 million to pay for other items that are more pressing in these challenging budget times. We can start with water, because humans need that more than anything else.

Ian Goldey
Agoura Hills

Community Water Rate Meeting

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District has proposed rate changes for potable water, recycled water and sanitation service.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rate structure, we invite you to attend either of the following informational meetings:

Wednesday, October 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Agoura Hills-Calabasas Community Center
27040 Malibu Hills Rd, Calabasas

10/05/15



For more information, visit www.LVMWD.com/WaterBudgetRates.



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Anticipating the power of rain

It's beginning to get a bit frightening as I read the El Niño predictions for this coming winter. When meteorologists spice up their language with remarks such as "a Godzilla of an El Niño may be headed our way," it's difficult for a hiker who has witnessed what big rains can do to not quake in her boots.

So the other day I went exploring along various canyon trails not many miles from my rural Agoura home.

This proved to be one eerily dry expedition.

In some areas it seemed impossible that last winter's rains ever touched down. Shrubs, including buckwheat and monkey flower, weren't only brittle from lack of moisture, their foliage

was crisped by sunburn. Typically drought-hardy and heat-tolerant, these plants looked in dire need of a deep nourishing soak and cool shade.

Creeks that had flowed with surprising vigor during the limited rains we had last winter were waterless, meandering gravel bars. Long blades of grass that had sprung up thick and green with the winter rains now resembled heaps of scattered straw.

The effects of the drought present a stunning contrast to the effects of heavy rain, which can sometimes saturate the landscape to the point that an entire section of a canyon can be reconfigured.

I once lived on private property in a remote section of Trancas Canyon in Malibu and occasionally return to visit. During one wet period in the mid-2000s, the volume of water roaring in Trancas Creek—which I used to safely rock-hop across or swim in—was hard to fathom. It was like staring at a chocolate shake in a blender on a speed setting gone berserk.

When the waters calmed enough to permit safe hiking, I discovered an even greater shock a half-mile upstream.

High above the canyon bottom, a section of Zuma Ridge Motorway had given way, creating a debris flow that scoured a new side canyon out of what had previously been a scant stream that trickled out of dense overgrowth.

All of the natural landscaping had been stripped utterly bare. This included mature trees and shrubs. A dramatically beautiful, boulder-dominated stream frothing with waterfalls suddenly fed into Trancas Creek.

As Californians, we are desperately anxious to welcome any spattering of raindrops, but we should remember that excessive rainfall, in addition to providing salvation from the punishing drought, can be damaging, even lethal.

Now is a good time to check the health of your roof and to know where sandbags may be available in your community, and to preach caution to young and old alike about avoiding areas of rising water.

We all want an end to this drought, but let's be prepared first for what may come our way.

Glasser is a writer fascinated by all manner of natural phenomena surrounding her home in the Santa Monica Mountains. Reach her at ranchomulholla@gmail.com.

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Senator Fran Pavley
California State Senator

Changing Demographics

Dr. Herb Gooch, Professor
Political Science, Cal Lutheran

Economic Development

Jill Lederer, President/CEO
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce

Medicine/Healthcare

Dr. James Lee, Cardiologist
UCLA Health

Housing/Land Development

Rick Lemmo, Senior Vice President
Community Relations, Caruso Affiliated

Public Safety

Lt. Jennifer Seetoo
Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station

Transportation

Darren Kettle, Executive Director
Ventura County Transportation Commission

The Region in 10 Years

Dr. Michaela Reaves, Professor
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Water

Dave Pedersen, General Manager
Los Virgenes Municipal Water District

Moderated by John Loesing, Managing Editor, The Acorn Newspapers

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WATER

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When infrastructure fails, the outcome can be catastrophic. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is devoted to ensuring the reliability of our systems by keeping them in good repair.

For those who fight our fires, prepare our food, drink our water and everyone in between, LVMWD continues to invest in reliable infrastructure. While no system is perfect, we work hard so that our customers never have to experience a day without water.

Please join us in supporting the 'Imagine a Day Without Water' campaign. For more information, visit www.lvmwd.com/Day-Without-Water



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Source: The Acorn 10/1/15



2015 Water Awareness Poster Contest Finalist

Lucy Robinson, 5th grade

Mrs. Rodriguez, White Oak Elementary School

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California's drought consequences are snowballing, so to speak

Source: LA Times 10/1/15



California is entering its fourth consecutive year of drought, and for the second consecutive year the Legislature will consider emergency drought relief.

Conservation numbers for California come out Thursday. Residents have been seriously saving water in the last few months, spurred by severe drought conditions. The savings have proven a big bright side to a tough year.

So how bad is the drought? Here are some sobering answers.

IT WAS DRY...

The lack of rain and snow hit California water supplies hard. The Sierra snowpack's water content measured just 5% of normal, obliterating the previous record low of 25%.

The snowpack's sorry condition was what differentiated 2015 from previous years, said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the State Water Resources Control Board. (Snowpack is important because when it melts, it refills the state's reservoirs during the hot summer months.)

Water supplies were cut, wells ran dry and reservoir levels plummeted. Here's how far below normal some are:

Lake Shasta (59%)

Lake Oroville (48%)

Trinity Lake (33%)

Folsom Lake (32%)

New Melones (20%)

AND WAS HOT...

The 2015 water year also saw the highest average temperature in 120 years of record-keeping. According to the California Climate Tracker, the state's average temperature was 58.4 degrees — more than three degrees warmer than average and almost a full degree warmer than the previous high in 1995-96.

...AND HEAT WORSENS THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The biggest impact of warmer temperatures has been that they intensify the effects of drought, increasing evaporation and drying out the soil.

“The character of this drought has been to have record and near-record temperatures,” state climatologist Michael L. Anderson said. “This drought is definitely warmer than its 20th-century counterparts. And when you run into that, you have a higher demand for water and a limited supply, so it creates greater stress.”

The lack of runoff has also reduced stream flow, creating dangerous conditions for native fish.

...AND THOSE CONDITIONS ALSO FUELED FIRES

In recent months, two of the most destructive wildfires in state history have raged across Northern California. According to federal statistics, a total of 813,163 acres have burned across the state this calendar year.

The lack of precipitation has dried out vegetation, driving fuel moisture to critically low levels.

“Four years of such parched conditions have predisposed the vegetation to be explosive, and that’s not exaggerating — it’s explosive,” said Ken Pimlott, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “The [calendar] year hasn’t ended yet, and it’s comparing right up there with some of the most devastating fire seasons on record.”

Less water conservation in California prompts questions

Source: LA Times 10/1/15

California is entering its fourth consecutive year of drought, and for the second consecutive year the Legislature will consider emergency drought relief.

For the first three years of California's drought, calls for water conservation got little traction.

Then in April, Gov. Jerry Brown ordered a mandatory 25% cut, and California took notice. Through the summer, residents slashed water use dramatically, up to 31% in July.

But in August, conservation dipped for the first time since Brown's order went into effect.

Californians cut back their urban water use in August by 27% compared with the same month in 2013, state regulators announced Thursday.

Officials blame August's extreme heat and lack of rain -- especially compared to July -- for the uptick in water use.

Still, the numbers underscore concern from regulators that California's water savings zeal could fade over time, especially during the cooler, wetter winter months.

There has been much discussion in the media that Southern California will have an extremely wet winter, thanks to a strong El Niño weather pattern.

This is has prompted water officials to warn people against dropping their guard on the drought.

A wet winter could generate destructive flooding without necessarily replenishing critical aspects of the state's water supply, said State Water Resources Control Board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus.

"Last year, the El-Niño-will-save-us stories really sank us," Marcus said. "We are hoping for all of the rain we can safely handle. We can't know what El Niño will bring."

Marcus and others stressed that they are not concerned that the August drop suggests a change in attitude by the public.

"The fact that the numbers didn't drop precipitously -- which is what we were afraid of -- shows that people get it and they're continuing," Marcus said. "I'm not worried about drought fatigue yet."

Because Californians have saved so much, regulators have largely been able to avoid levying big fines on local water districts for failing to meet their conservation targets -- which range from 4% to 36% compared with 2013 levels.

But August saw a decrease in compliance compared with July. About 72% of water suppliers met or were within 1 percentage point of their conservation standard.

Earlier this week, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that the city cut its water use 17.4% compared with the same month in 2013 -- good enough to eclipse its 16% conservation target.

But about 28% of urban water providers missed their targets in August -- some by wide margins.

In a water year in which California experienced abnormally high temperatures and suffered from record-low snowpack, Marcus and a chorus of water experts have pointed to urban conservation as a bright spot.

It took prodding from Brown, but experts say Californians seem to have gotten the message. Public polling has shown that the drought has become a top concern for Californians, and a majority would be willing to pay for water infrastructure or other drought fixes.

"The public response to hitting the conservation targets was really quite impressive," said Lester Snow, director of the California Water Foundation, a nonprofit group that conducted one of the polls. "That shows a level of engagement on water that we just normally don't see."

Thursday also marked the beginning of the "water year." Water watchers keep track of precipitation and storage using Oct. 1 as a starting point.

The state's strong conservation ethic must continue, officials said. The decrease from a 31.4% water savings in July to 26.9% in August was concerning, but "we're happy to see that Californians are showing that they have what it takes," Marcus said.

"We're all learning what we can do and what we can do without," she said. "We're still on the 'better-safe-than-sorry' plan. We can't roll the dice. ... We can't relax our guard."

Letter: Water rate increase

Source: Ventura County Star 9/30/15

Re: your Sept.17 article, "Drought charge can raise T.O. bills":

The water rate increase from California American Water Co. in Ventura County is a scam, along with the the 32 percent guideline reduction for the county.

Fact: Pyramid Lake in northern Los Angeles County is the fullest it's ever been. You cannot even see the waterline from previous dry spells. Just south of it, Castaic Lake is at the lowest level I've ever seen in 30 years. The point is, Castaic Lake is not low due to lack of water but due to political decisions to keep it low instead of filling it with water from Pyramid Lake.

Fact: In a June 1 interview by Jane Wells on CNBC, Mr. Gary Breaux, chief financial officer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves more than 19 million people, stated that "80 percent of the water cost is fixed just to have the water available and does not go up due to water use ... the fact is that reduced water use will lead to decreased revenue for the water district and result in increased unit price in the future to make up for the decreased revenue" In other words, most of our water cost is not due to increased home water use.

Fact: 80 percent of the water in California is used by farmers and only 20 percent is used by homeowners. However, 90 percent of the produce grown by farmers in California is sold outside of California. What this means is that 90 percent of the water California homeowners give up — and subsidies through taxes for farmers to grow produce — is used to give profits back to farmers who sell their produce outside of California.

Fact: Tiered pricing is illegal according to a recent court verdict in a case in San Juan Capistrano.

Barry Gabrielson,
Newbury Park

Letter: City water policies

Source: Ventura County Star 9/30/15

Re: Bill Little's Sept. 25 letter, "No impact":

Mayor Little and the Camarillo City Council have taken the commendable steps of recycling and now desalination to augment the city's water supply to alleviate the current and future drought conditions.

All the cities of Ventura County now need to implement these, or similar, methods to augment their water supply. The citizens of Camarillo, who have sacrificed their yards, pools, car washes and showers to conserve and whose taxes and water bills pay for the above water system improvements, should not be ignored by their elected representatives when they state their desire to have a development moratorium.

At the very least, so that the citizens of Camarillo can have an unambiguous dialog on the subject, Mayor Little needs to clarify what exactly is meant by "...new customers will be required to offset all of their water usage so there is no net increase in water consumption."

Also, why is the goal to not affect existing water customers only "during this drought"? Allowing development beyond the sustainable supply of water is the major part of why the city has a problem now. We will always have droughts!

James McPhie,
Ventura

October begins water year with prospect of tighter restrictions

Source: LA Times 9/30/15



A translucent freshwater bryozoa is illuminated by the rising sun on the receding banks of Folsom Lake, which was 35% of capacity as of Sept. 30. One of the lake's five boat ramps remains in operation and boaters are restricted to 5 mph. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

California begins a new water year with total reservoir storage at 36% of capacity

The driest water years on record in California are 1977, 1924, 1931 and 2014, officials say

As the state ends the fourth-driest water year on record with no guarantee of significant rain and snowfall this winter, Californians face the prospect of stricter rationing and meager irrigation deliveries for agriculture.

California begins a new October-September water year Wednesday with total reservoir storage at 36% of capacity, or 57% of average for this time of year.

Although some private domestic wells have dried up and a scattering of isolated little communities are in danger of running out of supplies, the drought's effect on most Californians has so far been modest. Another rainless winter would probably change that.

The Bridge Bay Marina at Lake Shasta shows the effects of the state's drought. The lake is at 26% of capacity, officials say.

"In general, our big communities have very adequate water supply and good reserves," said Mark Cowin, director of the California Department of Water Resources.

But if 2015 is a repeat of this year, "more people will feel the direct results of the drought in our cities," he said. Cowin expects more mandatory rationing and water-use restrictions, more unplanted cropland and greater effects on fish and wildlife.

"I truly think the biggest impacts would be on the agricultural sector and the environmental sector," he said.

Migrating salmon that struggled this year would have a harder time reaching spawning grounds. Waterfowl would crowd into shrunken wintering grounds.

Drops in crop and livestock production, combined with the expense of increased groundwater pumping, are expected to cost farmers \$1.5 billion this year. A dry 2015 would take a \$1-billion bite out of Central Valley crop revenue, according to a UC Davis report.

Officials measure dry conditions in terms of the runoff that fills rivers and reservoirs statewide and is crucial to the water supply. The lowest runoff was in water year 1977 — when statewide storage was only about a quarter of capacity — followed by the drought years of 1924 and 1931 and now 2014, according to Maury Roos, the state's chief hydrologist.

Agriculture hasn't done worse this year ... because of the tremendous amount of groundwater withdrawal that took place. That's essentially borrowing on tomorrow's future.- Mark Cowin

The level of Southern California's big regional reservoir, Diamond Valley Lake, is falling by about a foot a week as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California draws down imported supplies. The water district, which has water banked elsewhere and began the drought with record amounts of storage, expects to have depleted its non-emergency reserves by roughly half by the end of December.

Although the district is getting only 5% of its allocation of Northern California supplies this year, deliveries from Metropolitan's other major source, the Colorado River, have filled the aqueduct that snakes across the Mojave Desert from the Arizona border.

"We expect to have a full Colorado aqueduct delivery next year as well," said Debra Mann, the water district's chief operating officer.

That leaves the Southland in a better position than other regions that are entirely dependent on California supplies.

Still, if nature is as stingy with rain and snow in 2015 as it was this year, Mann said Metropolitan "would definitely" consider rationing supplies to local agencies by increasing the price of water they buy over a base amount. That program was in place for 18 months during the 2007-2009 drought, when the agency cut its deliveries by a fifth, triggering local rationing.

The move would have a similar ripple effect next year, forcing local agencies to take more action to reduce demand. Los Angeles, which now limits the days and times of outdoor watering, can impose progressively tougher restrictions under its drought regulations.

Along with greater limits on outdoor use, the city could reduce the amount of water available to households at the lowest price. Under DWP's existing tiered rate system, the more customers use above that base allocation, the more they pay.

"We have a pretty good ordinance in place and there are things that can happen as a result of that ordinance if the conditions warrant it," said Nancy Sutley, chief sustainability and economic development officer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Despite severe cuts, and in some parts of the state the total elimination of government irrigation deliveries, farmers managed to plant the vast majority of the state's cropland this year by pumping more groundwater and buying supplies from irrigation districts with senior water rights. That would continue if the drought persists, further depleting the Central Valley's chronically over-pumped aquifer.

"One of the reasons that agriculture hasn't done worse this year is because of the tremendous amount of groundwater withdrawal that took place," Cowin said. "That's essentially borrowing on tomorrow's future. We'll pay that price over time."

Even a normal rainy season wouldn't be enough to end the drought and refill reservoirs. And although the latest forecast from the federal Climate Prediction Center gives a 60% to 65% chance that El Niño conditions will develop this fall and winter, water managers know better than to count on it.

Water, 2015, California: The no-good, very bad year -- now, 'pray for rain'

Source: LA Times 9/29/15



Boaters and fisherman take advantage of a newly exposed peninsula jutting out into the water on the receding shores of Lake Shasta near Redding, Calif. in July.

California's 2015 water year set many records, but most of the records spelled bad news for a state locked in the fourth year of drought.

On Tuesday, two days before the water world's calendar turns, state agencies and advocacy groups began looking toward 2016 with renewed hope for a strong El Niño that might finally bring significant rainfall to California.

"This is a real sobering period we've gone through," said Department of Water Resources spokesman Doug Carlson. "We hope that a year from now we're looking back at water year 2016 with a great deal of satisfaction to see the drought come down to a halt or at least slowed down in its intensity."

"Pray for rain," he added.

More than 600 empty docks sit on dry, cracked dirt at Folsom Lake Marina, one of the largest inland marinas in California. As the state ended 2014 with no guarantee of significant rain and snow this winter, Californians face the prospect of stricter rationing and meager irrigation deliveries for agriculture.

Researcher Blair McLaughlin, left, and Andrew Weitz, right, walk through Blue Oak trees looking for trees affected by the drought near Shandon, Calif.

Water watchers keep track of precipitation, temperature and other conditions using Oct. 1 as a starting point. That day is considered the beginning of the wet season. The year stretching from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 is considered the "water year."

The 2015 water year was one for the record books.

On April 1, the day Gov. Jerry Brown announced historic water conservation measures, the Sierra snowpack's water content measured just 5% of normal, obliterating the previous record low of 25%.

Snowpack is important because when it melts, it refills the state's reservoirs during the hot summer months.

"Gov. Brown standing in a bare meadow where there should have been five feet of snow was a telling symbol of what's special of this year of the drought," said Ellen Hanak, director of the Water Policy Center of the Public Policy Institute of California. "This year was more extraordinary [in terms of snowpack] than the last."

The 2015 water year also saw the highest average temperature in 120 years of record-keeping. According to the California Climate Tracker, the state's average temperature was 58.4 degrees - more than three degrees warmer than average and almost a full degree warmer than the previous high in 1995-96.

"The character of this drought has been to have record and near-record temperatures," said state climatologist Michael L. Anderson. "This drought is definitely warmer than its 20th-century counterparts. And when you run into that, you have a higher demand for water and a limited supply, so it creates greater stress."

As water has warmed, fish such as the winter-run Chinook salmon have died en masse. The delta smelt have been imperiled for years.

"In some ways, the drought really began to bite this year," said Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute, a global water think tank based in Oakland. "We've sort of been muddling through the first three years, but this year we really started to see ecosystem damages."

In recent months, three of the largest and most destructive wildfires in California history have raged across the state. At last check, Cal Fire officials estimated that about 5,500 fires have burned more than 300,000 acres across the state since Jan. 1 – almost triple the average acreage burned over the last five years.

Fire officials say the lack of water has caused brush and other vegetation to reach "critically low" levels of "fuel moisture." That means that when sparks and burning embers get tossed into the air and land they are more likely to ignite new fires.

"Four years of such parched conditions have predisposed the vegetation to be explosive, and that's not exaggerating -- its explosive," said Ken Pimlott, Cal Fire's director. "The [calendar] year hasn't ended yet, and it's comparing right up there with some of the most devastating fire seasons on record."

Meanwhile, new reports have shown that many of the state's groundwater basins are critically depleted and some land in Central California is sinking at an accelerated pace.

Officials also said that about 1,900 wells had gone dry, leaving people in some of California's most disadvantaged communities without water.

Adding to the dire conditions, California quietly suffered from a fourth consecutive year of below-average precipitation. The state's reservoirs also remain well below average levels. As of

midnight Monday, Lake Oroville, a critical reservoir that feeds the State Water Project, was only 30% full – less than half its historical average.

“It’s unsettling from the standpoint that you’re having observations [in 2015] that don’t always match up with the historic record, so using the historic record as context for what you’re seeing makes it a little more challenging,” Anderson said. “It makes it even harder to anticipate what comes next.”

But there were bright spots, too.

Californians largely responded to Brown's call to slash urban water use by 25%. The state has collectively met and exceeded that target each month since the requirements took affect in June.

To reduce their use, thousands of Californians claimed rebates to rip out their thirsty lawns and replace them with drought-tolerant landscaping. Southern California alone exhausted about \$340 million in rebate money quickly.

Public polling has shown that the drought has become a top concern for Californians, and a majority would be willing to pay for water infrastructure or other drought fixes.

“The public response to hitting the conservation targets was really quite impressive,” said Lester Snow, director of the California Water Foundation. “That shows a level of engagement on water that we just normally don’t see.”

Whether the state's water-saving ways will continue is unclear, and are complicated by the prospect of what one expert has called a "Godzilla" El Niño.

Strong El Niños bring a subtropical jet stream that ferries wet storms over the jungles of southern Mexico and Central America northward, putting a train of storms over Southern California and the southern United States.

The National Weather Service has predicted a 95% chance of El Niño continuing throughout the winter.

But experts warned that mega-storms will flood roads, create mudslides and generally wreak havoc on Southern California.

And since the region is still largely unequipped to capture huge amounts of storm water, large, damaging rain events would do relatively little to end the drought.

Experts have warned not to count on El Niño or even one year of above average rainfall to solve the state’s water problem quickly.

“We’re in more than a one-year hole,” Gleick said. “This is the year we started to change things, and whether we continue partially depends on mother nature and how we respond.

“If we have a wet year we could go back to business as usual,” he added, “and that would be a big mistake since business as usual doesn’t work any longer.”

Readers React

Grow up and drink your treated sewage water

Source: LA Times 9/28/15

To the editor: Really? The Times chose to use potty humor (sewage to beverage, toilet to tap) aimed at its most uninformed readers to report on a major decision addressing Los Angeles' long-term water needs? ("[MWD aims to turn sewage into beverage](#)," Sept. 23)



The Times could have informed its readers that every drop of water we drink has been consumed and excreted innumerable times by other humans, and that MWD's proposal is to develop a system, like other agencies worldwide have already done, to duplicate the natural process that purifies that water.

Art Walsh, Altadena

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To the editor: Rather than get over the so-called yuck factor, as suggested in The Times' wise editorial on water, perhaps we should meet the challenge of learning to live with it. ("[All water, no 'Yuck!'](#)" Editorial, Sept. 24)

After all, life is full of yucky-ness. We drink, therefore we urinate; we eat, therefore we defecate; we are made of flesh, bone and guts, therefore we bleed and we die and are subject to pain and suffering during our lifetimes.

Perhaps we can begin to open our minds and embrace what it is to be fully alive, yuck factors and all.

Ben Miles, Huntington Beach

Readers React

Defending the 'Wetlands' water deal

Source: LA Times 9/29/15

The San Luis Reservoir near Los Banos, shown in 2014, is part of the Central Valley Project and supplies water to the giant Westlands Water District.

(Los Angeles Times)

To the editor: We disagree strenuously with Michael Hiltzik's recent column on the Westlands Water District. ("[Secret water deal sets an awful example](#)," Column, Sept. 20) As for any "secrecy," the federal district court, Congress and interested nongovernmental organizations were regularly updated on the status of negotiations, and the terms of a potential settlement were shared in December 2013.

We also disagree on the characterization of the terms of the settlement. Westlands is not immunized from cutbacks; the government may still impose environmental or drought restrictions as before.

Moreover, the settlement reduces the government's obligation to Westlands by 25%, even in wet years when full allocations will be available to other contractors.

While the Obama administration, Gov. Jerry Brown and others are trying to find ways to resolve water supply issues, some are still embracing tired old divisions of the past — north vs. south, fish vs. farmers. Thankfully, the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior crafted a settlement in which all parties were held responsible and all had their decades-long legal disputes resolved.

Don Peracchi, Fresno

The writer is president of the Westlands Water District.

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To the editor: Absolutely amazing that we are just now hearing about Westlands' "secret" deal for California water. Where was the governor when this was being brokered?

As a Californian who has been struggling to reduce my family's water use, facing a dead or dying lawn and landscaping, I am outraged at the audacity of the government and this (obviously powerful) water district that continues to put a major drain on this precious state resource, to the detriment of the state's residents.

William Franklin, Wildomar, Calif.

DWP clears a hurdle in legal fight over faulty billing system

Source: LA Times 9/28/15

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power sued PricewaterhouseCoopers in March, alleging fraudulent inducement and breach of contract over a deal to update the utility's outdated billing system. Above, the DWP's building.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has scored a legal victory in its case against a large consulting firm hired to rollout a multimillion-dollar billing system that produced thousands of erroneous bills.

The city sued PricewaterhouseCoopers in March, alleging fraudulent inducement and breach of contract. In 2010, the firm received a \$60-million contract -- later increased by \$9.2 million -- from the DWP to update the utility's outdated billing system.

Earlier this week, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elihu Berle ruled that the city's claim of fraudulent inducement against the firm could move forward. City officials said that could mean the municipal utility will be able to recover damages exceeding the value of the contract.

A spokeswoman for PricewaterhouseCoopers declined to comment. [At the time the case was filed](#), an attorney for the company called the lawsuit "meritless" and suggested DWP was trying "to shift blame ... for its self-inflicted billing problems."

The project was plagued with problems.

DWP officials were unable to bill 180,000 customers for 17 months. More than 11% of the utility's meters were unable to function properly as a result of the botched billing system, the city claimed in its lawsuit.

Utility and city officials assert PricewaterhouseCoopers purposefully misrepresented its track record of implementing similar systems to win the multimillion-dollar contract. The lawsuit claims PricewaterhouseCoopers had problems with a project in Cleveland that resulted in 15% of public utility customers not receiving their bills.

This week's court decision "will allow us to attempt to recover much of the costs borne by the utility and our customers for the problems experienced with the billing system design and implementation," said DWP General Manager Marcie Edwards. "We ended up with a nightmare for our customers and our employees as we managed the fallout of the faulty integration and programming of the new system."

Strong evidence Mars has streams of salt water in summertime

Source: Ventura County Star 9/28/15



CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Scientists are reporting that Mars appears to have not only frozen water but flowing streams of salty water, at least in the summertime.

They say their latest observations "strongly support" the longtime theory that salt water flows down certain Martian slopes each summer.

These dark, narrow streaks tend to appear and grow during the warmest Martian months, and fade the rest of the year. Salt lowers the freezing point of water, and scientists say that would explain these seasonal briny flows.

Because water is essential to life, Monday's findings could have major implications.

The researchers say further exploration is warranted to determine whether any microscopic life might exist at modern-day Mars. They based their findings on data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has been circling Mars since 2006.

Watch NASA scientists explain why they think water still flows on Mars

Source: LA Times 9/28/15

Some of NASA's top scientists are set to share new findings they say will solve a mystery about Mars.

Jim Green, NASA's director of planetary science, and Michael Meyer, lead scientist for the Mars Exploration Program, will hold a news conference Monday morning at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., to "detail a major science finding," according to the space agency.

The news conference will also include three members of the research team behind a [study](#) published Monday in the journal Nature Geoscience that offers evidence of "contemporary water activity on Mars."

In that study, scientists from Georgia Tech, NASA Ames Research Center and elsewhere explain that an instrument aboard NASA's [Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter](#) has spotted telltale signs of hydrated salts in several locations on the surface of the Red Planet.

Using data collected by the [Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars](#) instrument, the team members concluded that salts are deposited on the slopes of several craters and canyons. These salts — including magnesium perchlorate, magnesium chlorate and sodium perchlorate — appear to have been carried there recently by flowing water.

Mars has [frozen water at its poles](#) and traces of [water in the dust](#) that covers its surface. Finding liquid water flowing on Mars would make the planet much more Earth-like, and potentially increase the likelihood of Martian life.

In their study, the researchers write that their findings "strongly support the hypothesis that seasonal warm slopes are forming liquid water on contemporary Mars." But they aren't sure where that water comes from. One of the possibilities that comes to mind — that water ice melts in the relatively warm summer — is unlikely, since these salts weren't found near the icy poles. They list a few other theories but say none of them seems probable.

More details may be forthcoming in the news conference, which begins at 8:30 a.m. You can watch it live in the window above.

Water still flows on Mars -- but it's not for drinking, scientists say

Source: LA Times 9/28/15

Where there's brine, there's water.

Scientists scouring the Red Planet using NASA'S Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter say they've found direct chemical evidence of transient saltwater flowing on the surface today.

Granted, they haven't caught the liquid in the act -- and what they've detected looks less like salty water and more like watery salt. But nonetheless, the [discovery](#) published by the journal Nature Geoscience helps solve a longstanding Martian mystery and sheds light on the potential for life on our nearest planetary neighbor.

"This is the first time we've found flowing water on a planet that's not ours," said lead author Lujendra Ojha, a planetary scientist and PhD candidate at Georgia Tech.

Scientists got a tantalizing hint that there could be liquid water on the surface back in 2011, when Alfred McEwen, lead scientist for the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's HiRISE camera, along with Ojha and other colleagues, discovered these strange dark streaks on Martian slopes that seem to [grow and fade with the seasons](#). These "recurring slope lineae," which can stretch up to a few meters, extend downward when it gets warm and then later shrink and fade, reappearing each Martian year.

"Ever since the discovery in 2011 ... a number of us have been incredibly excited by the prospect of liquid water on Mars," said Bethany Ehlmann, a planetary geologist at Caltech who was not involved in the paper. Nonetheless, she added, "we try to be cautious -- it's a big thing to say there's liquid water on Mars today."

Granted, Mars's atmosphere is cold and thin -- which means that any pure water that made it to the surface would either freeze or immediately evaporate, depending on the temperature. But a recent study by scientists using NASA's Curiosity rover found that [water might indeed be able to exist briefly on the surface](#) -- provided there were enough salts, such as perchlorates, dissolved in the liquid. These salts would keep the water from freezing or evaporating quite as easily and could actually serve to suck moisture back out of the air.

So could liquid water -- very salty, briny water -- really explain these strange dark streaks on Martian slopes?

Theoretically, the scientists could look for water by using the orbiter's Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars, or CRISM. CRISM can look for different chemicals in a given spot on the surface by studying the telltale signature of dark bands they've left in the light. The problem is, it's hard to check the light's chemical fingerprint at the recurring slope lineae, or

RSL, because, according to the study, “few locations exist in which RSL are wide or dense enough to fill even a single CRISM pixel.”

So researchers used a method where they focused on the handful of individual pixels that were mostly filled by the recurring slope lineae. They looked at four different spots with recurring slope lineae and discovered a strong fingerprint for hydrated salts -- salts with water locked into the mineral structure, a clear sign that saltwater likely had flowed there. The hydrated salts included magnesium perchlorate, magnesium chlorate and sodium perchlorate.

The findings may further whet the appetite of astrobiologists looking to probe past habitable environments on the Red Planet, researchers said.

“I think it’s incredibly exciting, because when we look back at the broad scope of Mars history, it’s always in the past where there’s evidence for the most water,” Ehlmann said. “But if there’s liquid water even today, when Mars is supposedly at its driest ... I think that says that there was probably liquid water for all of the last 4.5 billion years, just like there was on Earth. Not in the same quantity, but at least ephemerally, episodically, it’s there.”

Still, the water is so incredibly briny that it’s difficult to imagine microbes being able to survive with the harsh fluid.

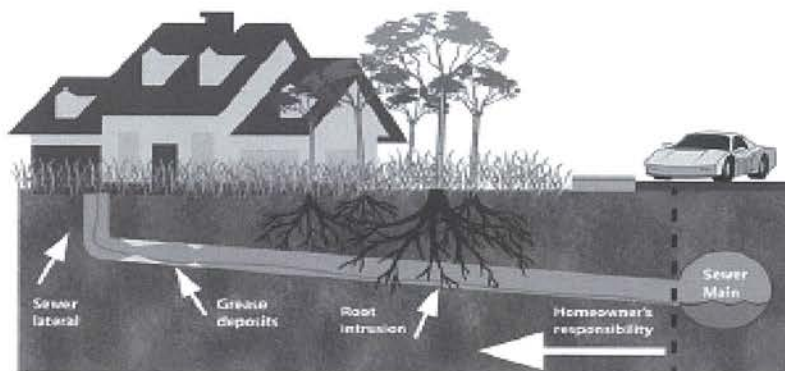
In the meantime, where exactly the water comes from, how it’s released, and how it gets back into the soil to repeat the cycle every year remain open questions, the scientists said. Such questions could be answered by a future orbiting mission to Mars, Ehlmann added.

Don't "FOG" Our Sewers

"**FOG**" stands for Fats, Oils & Grease, which are items that don't belong in the sewer system.

FOG can accumulate in sewer tiles and mains, causing clogs and messy backups.

Instead of sending these items down the drain, collect **FOG** in cans or jars and dispose of these items in the trash.



To learn more about sewer lateral maintenance, go to www.LVMWD.com, Your Water, Wastewater Services, Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, Sewer Service 101




www.LVMWD.com



www.TriunfoSanitation.com

SPRINKLE SMARTER!

Install a drip irrigation system or smart controller. Get up to \$200 in rebates and save 36,000 gallons per year.

An illustration of a white house with a black roof and arched windows. In front of the house is a green lawn. On the left, a large blue water drop character with two large white eyes is looking towards the house. In the center, a blue sprinkler is spraying water. On the right, a white drip irrigation system is shown with a winding line and a small blue water drop at the end.

SAVE
the
DROP
SAVE THE DROPLA.ORG



Source: LV Enterprise 9/28/15



2015 Water Awareness Poster Contest Finalist

Scarlett Granof, 5th grade

Ms. La Frenz, Willow Elementary School

Learn to Conserve from Children!



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No Drugs Down the Drain!

Protect our water – Dispose of drugs properly

National Take-Back Day

Saturday, September 26 10 AM - 2 PM

at

Lost Hills Sheriff Station

27050 Agoura Road, Agoura

Ventura County Sheriff Station

2101 E. Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks

Unused or expired drugs pollute the environment when they are flushed down the drain. Everyone should use pharmaceuticals as directed, but if you have unused or expired prescription drugs, they must be disposed of properly.



The best way to control water pollution is to prevent it in the first place. For more information visit: www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org.



Community Water Rate Meeting

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District has proposed rate changes for potable water, recycled water and sanitation service.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rate structure, we invite you to attend either of the following informational meetings:

Wednesday, September 30, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

City of Agoura Hills Event Center
29900 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills

Wednesday, October 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Agoura Hills-Calabasas Community Center
27040 Malibu Hills Rd, Calabasas



For more information, visit www.LVMWD.com/WaterBudgetRates.



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Source: LV Enterprise 9/28/15

Los Angeles City Councilman **Bob Blumenfeld**, at right with scissors, cuts the ribbon on the Blumenfeld Water-Wise Demonstration Garden at the West Valley Municipal Center in Reseda. The project is a partnership between Blumenfeld's office, DWP, L.A. Public Library and the Department of Recreation and Parks. It replaced 20,000 square feet of thirsty lawn at the Municipal Center and West Valley Library with California friendly landscaping options. Prior to its completion the project had already saved several hundred thousand gallons of water. "What was once a patch of ailing lawn is now a place for West Valley residents to admire, inspire and enjoy," said Blumenfeld. The councilman has also taken similar steps at his Woodland Hills home, replacing 1,750 square feet of turn with drought resistant landscaping.



LVMWD Hosts Community Water Rate Mtg.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District will hold a Community Water Rate Meetings to discuss their proposed rate changes for potable water, recycle water and sanitation services. Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 30 from 6:30 6 to 8 pm at the City of Agoura Hills Event Center, 29900 Ladyface Court and on Wednesday, October 7 from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Agoura Hills-Calabasas Community Center, 27040 Malibu Hills Road. Bring any questions about the proposed rate structure. For more information visit www.LVMWD.com/WaterBudgetRates.

National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday

This Saturday, September 26, is national “Drug Take Back Day.” Have unused or expired drugs to dispose of properly? If flushed down the drain they pollute the environment. Dispose of them safely by bringing them to the Lost Hills Sheriff Station, 27050 Agoura Road, between 10 am and 2 pm Saturday. For more information visit www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org. The event is co-sponsored by the Law Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District.