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LVMWD Board Honors Agoura Hills Couple for Water Conservation

October 23, 2008 - CALABASAS, CA – The Board of Directors of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) will honor Albert & Mary Parisi as the District's October "Citizens of the Month," at its October 28 meeting. The couple will receive recognition for setting an excellent water conservation example by replacing their home's lawn with artificial turf.

Mr. and Mrs. Parisi own a home on a highly visible corner lot at the intersection of Cedarhaven and Rainbow Crest in the City of Agoura Hills. Nearly three years ago, they decided to replace their natural grass lawn with an artificial turf surface and for them there has been no looking back.

According to Mr. Parisi, he doesn't miss the bother and expense of maintaining a large section of lawn. He is happy with the durability of the product he had installed and enjoys the savings by not having to water, weed or fertilize and claims that "it has paid for itself already. "I have no regrets whatsoever," he added. "There's been no fading and no problems when it rains." Rain water percolates through the artificial turf into the ground.

Mrs. Parisi is also pleased with the appearance of the faux lawn and she's amused by the number of curious visitors who have knocked on the door seeking details regarding the lawn and gardens. She reports the lawn is the only artificial item; the shrubs and trees are still natural. "We're not bothered by the questions. It's actually been fun," she said

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Las Virgenes Municipal Water District points to the project as a means to maintain a home's high quality appearance while significantly reducing the amount of water devoted to landscaping. The District reports that a typical lawn needs approximately 60 inches of water through the course of a year and nearly 70 percent of the water delivered to LVMWD customers is used outdoors. Artificial turf is one means of significantly reducing those numbers.

Artificial turf is not permitted in all communities, however. Many homeowner associations (HOAs) and some cities prohibit its use but that policy is currently being reviewed in many communities as California's statewide drought deepens.

John Mundy, General Manager at LVMWD said that the current water shortage should give everyone pause to reconsider how water is used. "Whether it's artificial turf or other forms of water-wise landscaping, each homeowner and HOA may soon be facing the reality that water supplies are limited, and like any commodity, will become more costly."

LVMWD serves some 65,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and surrounding unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Event: LVMWD Board Meeting

When: 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 28

Where: LVMWD Headquarters, 4232 Las Virgenes Rd., Calabasas

What: Mary and Albert Parisi will receive recognition from the LVMWD Board for their exemplary water conservation efforts.