

Preparing for El Niño and Winter Weather

Forecasters are predicting a very wet January, February and March for Southern California. Residents need to prepare for possible flooding, mudslides and power outages. While we hope for rain that brings relief from the drought, customers should be prepared to deal with “too much of a good thing.”

Visit www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/ca-flood-preparedness/fpw_prepare.cfm to learn how to prep your home for a flood and a list of items to include in your emergency supply kit.

Be sure gutters and downspouts are clear and the water has a pathway away from structures. Be mindful to monitor water levels in pools and spas.

Fire stations across LA County are offering FREE sandbags to residents to help with flood control. For a list of these stations and the most up-to-date weather-related information, including road closures, visit www.lacounty.gov/elniño.



Winter Advisory: Preventing Frost Damage

To minimize plant frost damage due to irrigation, we advise customers to water after sunrise but before 10 AM. Doing so allows the plants to absorb the water before the temperature drops at night.



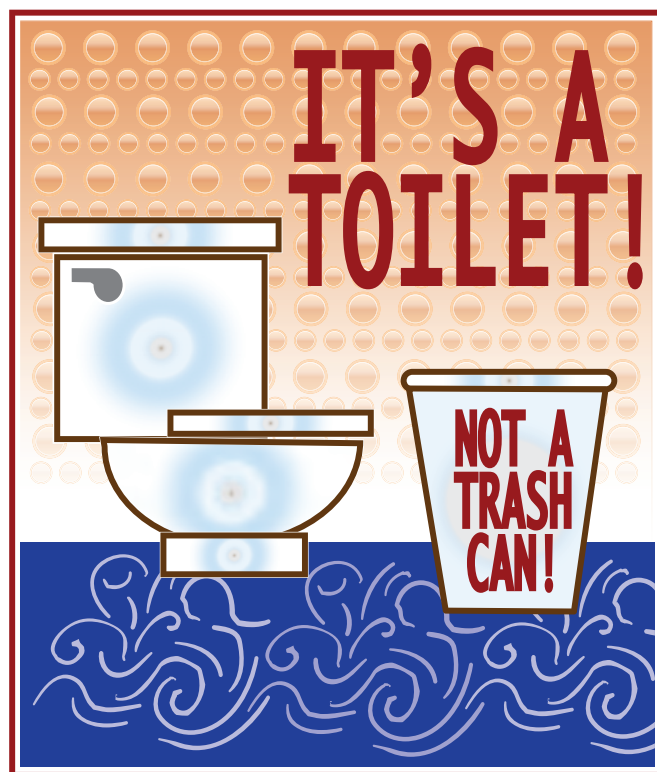
Saving Water

The Toilet Is Not a Trash Can

Sewer lines and treatment plants are designed to only handle biological wastes and toilet paper. Help avoid costly and messy clogs by not flushing cigarette butts, plastics, metals, bandages, dental floss, baby wipes or other personal hygiene items. Even when some packages say “flushable,” that does not mean they’re able to break down; they can cause costly clogs in household drain lines and the sewer system that serves the region.

Another item to avoid flushing down the drain is kitchen waste, which includes fats, cooking oil or grease.

Never pour unused or expired pharmaceuticals, gasoline, motor oil, anti-freeze, paint, pool chemicals, acetone (found in nail polish remover) or similar items down the drain. They pose hazards to the sewer system and could impede treatment processes at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility. Contact your city to find out when and where you can safely dispose of hazardous waste items.



Making Your Water Budget Work for You (Continued from front)

the adjustments for you. Rebates are available on qualifying models, see www.socalwatersmart.com for details. Some models can be programmed, controlled and monitored using your smartphone.

Customers who exceed their budgets will pay more. "Inefficient" use is defined as using 101% to 150% of the total water budget. "Excessive" users who exceed 150% of their budgeted amount will pay even more.💧

How is Outdoor Use Calculated?

The amount of water landscaping loses to evaporation and plant transpiration is known as evapotranspiration (ET). It varies daily due to factors such as wind, humidity and temperature. LVMWD uses a system that calculates the ET value for every half-mile square area to account for the 374 microclimate zones within the service area.

Existing landscaping is allocated 80 % of ET while newly-constructed landscaping is required to be more efficient so it receives 55% of ET. The LVMWD online estimator uses historical ET values to give you a range of outdoor water budget based on the area you irrigate.💧

Sign up for the February 6 Tour

Join us for a FREE, half-day tour of the Tapia Water Reclamation and Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facilities. You'll learn how LVMWD turns your wastewater into high-quality recycled water and garden compost; and you'll have the opportunity to pose questions to our knowledgeable staff. A light breakfast and lunch are provided. Priority registration is given to LVMWD customers. Children must be 12 or older and under the supervision of a responsible adult in order to participate.

To register and view the itinerary, go to www.LVMWD.com/QuarterlyTours.💧



Get The Current Flow by E-mail

Bi-monthly billing has transitioned to monthly billing. However, *The Current Flow* has not, it will continue as a bi-monthly publication.

If you receive a paper monthly water/sewer bill, you will receive a paper copy of *The Current Flow*. If you receive *The Current Flow* in a separate mailing without a monthly bill, this will be your last paper copy of *The Current Flow*.

Should you want to continue receiving the bi-monthly newsletter, please sign up for e-Notification at www.LVMWD.com/e-Notification to receive it electronically.💧

**Las Virgenes
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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 & Drought Hotline -
818.251.2180

StopTheWaste@LVMWD.com

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility
Free Compost & Recycled Water Pickup
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rebate Information
www.LVMWD.com ~ Conservation

Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment
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4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
www.LVMWD.com

At Your Service. . .

Leaks Can Run, but They Can't Hide

That “drip, drip, drip” from your kitchen sink faucet or garden hose may seem harmless enough, but household leaks waste more than one trillion gallons of water nationwide each year. During “Fix a Leak Week,” March 14 - 20, we want you to check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation system for leaks. You'll save water and money by promptly fixing any leaks you find. On the other hand, why wait for March? Do it today!

To learn how to find and fix leaks in your home, go to www3.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/howto.html.



THE MISSING PIECE

As of January 1, Water Budgets will change every month, **True or False?**

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 one way to properly dispose of cooking grease?

Answer: You can do the following—

Pour used cooking grease into a heat-safe container, store it in the fridge, wait until it hardens and throw it in the trash.

Wipe greasy pots, dishes and utensils with a paper towel before washing.

Catch fatty food scraps in the sink with strainer and place them in the trash.

PROTECT YOUR PIPES

Even in our moderate climate, winter often brings cold overnight temperatures that can cause exposed pipes to freeze and possibly burst. Approximately 250,000 U.S. homes suffer damage from frozen pipes that burst each year.

Follow these simple steps to prevent your pipes from freezing:

1. Locate the water source line that comes into your home. Most likely, it will be near the foundation area, above ground, where the pipe enters the house.
2. Use insulation tape or an insulation sleeve to wrap around the pipe.
3. If you have exposed pipes that run through non-insulated areas of your house, these sections should also be wrapped with insulation tape or a foam insulation sleeve. Don't forget to insulate exposed irrigation lines.

If you do experience frozen pipes, DO NOT use a blowtorch or other open flame device when trying to thaw them. Instead, use a hair dryer, heat tape (available at hardware stores) or an electric heating pad wrapped around the frozen pipe, allowing it to gently thaw. Be sure to then inspect the lines for cracks and leaks after a freeze; remember that water expands when frozen, which can damage your pipes.

A technique often recommended is to let water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes, to prevent freezing. Unless you plan to save this trickle of water in a bucket, we encourage insulating the pipes instead.

For more information, visit www.LVMWD.com/frozen-pipes.

