

The Current Flow

Issue #4 ~ 2009

Water Budgets Now In Effect

Included with each residential service bill is a water budget for the current billing period. Please note that the format of your bill has changed. Be sure to see the budgeted amount and use it as a tool to plan your water use. Budgeted amounts will vary with each billing cycle, a larger amount in warm weather months, less in the cooler seasons with reduced daylight. Remember, water used in excess of the budgeted amount carries a surcharge of \$3 per billing unit.



In preparation for the introduction of water budgets, hundreds of LVMWD customers attended community meetings held throughout the District's service area in April, May and June. In addition, the District has scheduled and conducted several free classes on the topics of irrigation management and water-wise landscaping. Check the LVMWD website, or call Customer Service at 818.251.2200 for information on these helpful meetings that share valuable conservation methods. ♪



Summer Water Bills

Remember, high water usage during the warm summer weather can be reflected in your water service bill. Irrigation, swimming pools and increased loads of laundry are a few factors that make summer the peak season for water use. You can compare your use to that from last year by examining previous bills or by signing up for the Infinity.link service that's available free at the LVMWD web site.

And remember, as summertime fades into the past, reduce the amount of time you irrigate. Shorter days and cooler weather mean your plants need less water. ♪

What's New in Water? Stay Up to Date!

Be sure to visit LVMWD's redesigned web site. There's a wide range of information on a variety of water topics, from service questions to conservation and even Board meeting agendas. You may now subscribe to receive E-Notifications or register for on-line (paperless) billing. You can find us at www.LVMWD.com.

You can also stay current by following LVMWD on Twitter. ♪



In This Issue ✓ LVMWD History Part 6 ~ ✓ 2010 Quarterly Tour Schedule ~ ✓ Fire Station 65 Honored ~ ✓ Be a Leak Detective

News for customers of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District ~ 818.251.2100 ~ www.LVMWD.com

LVMWD's 50th Anniversary - Part 6

Environmental Concerns and Issues

Due to environmental concerns and population pressures, Tapia Water Reclamation Facility expanded once again in 1982. The plans increased capacity to 8 million gallons per day (mgd) and included construction of a sludge farm to handle biosolids. The 91-acre Rancho Las Virgenes Facility was designed to convert solid wastewater treatment byproducts into a fertilizer for fodder crops. Then two years later, in 1984, Tapia upgraded to tertiary filtration treatment to ensure the effluent would meet newer and more stringent Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations.

Another LVMWD goal was to improve the quality of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) water stored at Las Virgenes Reservoir. A diatomaceous earth filtration system was recommended and the Westlake Filtration Plant was completed in 1990.

LVMWD's awareness of water scarcity drove many early decisions. The early 1990s brought another period of drought and the Resource Conservation Department was created to provide education and public outreach to help change customer water use patterns. The drought prompted LVMWD to increase efforts to achieve Total Beneficial Reuse of all local resources. Another expansion of Tapia was completed in 1993, increasing capacity to 16 mgd.

Construction of the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility was completed in 1995. This facility underscored the attitude of the 1993 board members that in coming years, sewage disposal to landfills would most likely be prohibited. By treating bio-solids locally and creating a beneficial soil amendment in an environmentally sensitive way, LVMWD was far ahead of other water agencies.

Moving into the early 2000s, LVMWD continued to promote water conservation practices with waterwise appliance rebates, water-efficient landscaping classes, educational programs in schools and elevating awareness in local communities of urban runoff as a regional water quality issue.

We've Come Full Circle

LVMWD was established to ensure a reliable source of high quality water in this arid region. The water delivered over the past five decades has sustained the community we enjoy today. Looking forward to the next 50 years, there are sure to be challenges as compelling as those that inspired our pioneering founders. Water will become a more valued commodity that cannot be taken for granted.

LVMWD continues to be an industry leader, committed to providing reliable, high quality drinking water and state-of-the-art wastewater management to our customers, while continuing our stewardship of the region's unique natural environment. 💧



Rancho Las Virgenes
Composting Facility

LVMWD Hosts Landscape and Water Conservation Fair

Mark your calendars now for this special event on Saturday, October 24, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Fair will be open to the public at LVMWD's headquarters, 4232 Las Virgenes Road. This event is partially funded by a grant from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation.

A variety of water conservation experts will be on hand to discuss drought-tolerant plants, native/drought-tolerant landscape design, water conservation, weather based irrigation controllers, local soils, rainwater harvesting systems, pool covers, and more.

The current Southern California water shortage requires every customer to re-evaluate water use. In LVMWD's service area, many large residential lots are over irrigated with a high

incidence of runoff. The largest causes of runoff are simple to correct, such as aiming or unblocking sprinkler heads. LVMWD invites everyone to attend and learn more about water and natural resource conservation practices, irrigation efficiency, the beauty and benefits of drought-tolerant and native landscaping and an appreciation of the surrounding environment. There will be something for the entire family! 💧



LVMWD Board Honors Fire Station 65 as “Citizens of the Month”

Marking “50 Years of Service to the Community” for the past year, LVMWD’s Board of Directors has honored outstanding citizens or organizations for their efforts in the development of the District, conservation efforts, educational programs or environmental stewardship. As the final recipient, LVMWD recognized Fire Station 65 on Cornell Road, for their recent landscape redesign which utilized artificial turf in conjunction with California-friendly drought-tolerant plantings. Station 65 was also LVMWD’s first connected “customer” back in the days when service was being established. ♪



Left – right: Battalion Chief Anthony Williams, Fire Fighter Mark Robinson, Fire Fighter Specialist Tim Bernstein, Fire Captain Wayne Miller, and LVMWD Director Lee Renger.



Quarterly Tours

Do you know where your drinking water comes from? How is water “cleaned”? How does it get to your tap? And, what happens once you’ve used it and it goes down the drain?

Join us for either or both of our free “behind the scenes” tours on any of the following Saturday mornings from 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. A light lunch is provided.

Potable Water System

Nov. 7, 2009
May 22, 2010
Nov. 6, 2010

Wastewater Treatment System

Feb. 27, 2010
August 21, 2010

Call 818-251-2100 to make a reservation or register on-line at www.LVMWD.com. Preference is given to LVMWD and Triunfo Sanitation District customers. Guests must be at least 12 years old, and if under 18, accompanied by an adult. Participants should expect moderate walking and stairs during the tour. ♪

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board of Directors

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Board meetings are scheduled at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. See web site for meeting and agenda information.

Customer Service -
818.251.2200

After hours emergency -
818.251.2100

**Rancho Las Virgenes
Composting Facility
Compost Giveaway**

Hours: Saturdays 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
(except holidays)

Rebate Information

www.LVMWD.com ~ Conservation

Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment
Biosolids Composting

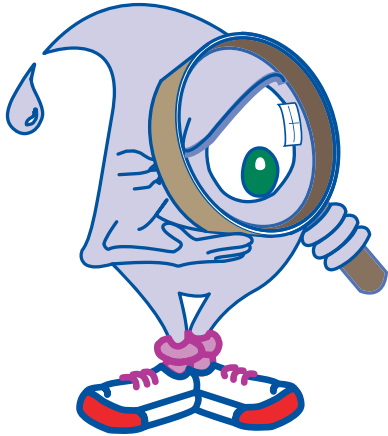


4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
www.LVMWD.com

At Your Service...

Leaks waste water - Be a Leak Detective!

Check for leaks in your toilet by adding special dye tablets (available free at LVMWD) or blue food coloring to the TANK of your toilet. Do not flush. Wait 15 minutes and check the water in the BOWL. If you see colored water, you have a leak.



Check for outside leaks by turning off all water inside and outside the house (don't forget ice makers). Locate the water meter box, lift the lid and look for the register face. Find the small triangle (usually red). It should not be moving since all water has been turned off. If the triangle is moving, it may be a sign of a leak. ♪



THE MISSING PIECE

What type of filtration system is used at Westlake Filtration Plant?

Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or visit our web site at www.LVMWD.com and send your answer through Contact Us. Prizes awarded monthly to ten winners randomly selected from the correct responses.

Previous issue's **MISSING PIECE** answer:

What is a "unit" of water?

Answer: 100 cubic feet of water which is 748 gallons. ♪

Interesting Bark

Often overlooked in the garden landscape, several plants have attractive and interesting bark. These examples are also water efficient. ♪

Ribes malvaceum

This shade-loving plant displays clusters of pink flowers winter to spring. Very drought tolerant. Older bark turns chocolate to reddish brown that sheds and peels. 5-8' h x 5' w



Chaparral Currant[@]

Summer Holly[#]



Comarostaphylis diversifolia

Slow growing evergreen shrub requires good drainage and benefits by summer water once or twice. Urn-shaped white blossoms become reddish-orange fruits in the fall that attract wildlife. The gray-brown trunk is fibrous and sheds to reveal a cinnamon layer. 8-20' h x 8-20' w

Carpenteria californica

This evergreen shrub is an excellent choice for dry, shady areas. Shiny dark green foliage highlights large 3" white flowers with golden stamens and a light fragrance. Stems form a multi-branched crown; the peeling bark is ivory and tan. 6' h x 5' w



Bush Anemone[%]

St. Catherine's Lace^{*}



Rhynchospora parvifolium

This small shrub can be the focus of your garden. Forming a mound of beautiful white flowers that appear in the summer above the silver foliage, the blossoms dry to a warm reddish-brown. As the plant matures, the dark gray branches become gnarled and sculpture-like. 3-6' h x 6' w

For more information on these waterwise plants, go to the Conservation section of our web site - www.LVMWD.com. To find a local retailer to purchase native plants, go to BeWaterWise (<http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html>).

Photo Credit: [#] Charles Webber, California Academy of Sciences; [%] Julie Kierstead Nelson; [@] Lynn Watson; ^{*} Robert Steers