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Wayne K. Lemieux  
Counsel

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HEADQUARTERS  
4232 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 251-2100  
Fax (818) 251-2109

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WESTLAKE  
FILTRATION PLANT  
(818) 251-2370  
Fax (818) 251-2379

TAPIA WATER  
RECLAMATION FACILITY  
(818) 251-2300  
Fax (818) 251-2309

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COMPOSTING FACILITY  
(818) 251-2340  
Fax (818) 251-2349

[www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com)



**For Immediate Release**

For More Information:  
Jeff Reinhardt  
818-251-2150

**Most Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Customers Reduce Use – More Conservation Needed**

CALABASAS, CA September 29, 2009 – “Compliance with mandatory water conservation measures among Las Virgenes customers is generally good, but there’s still room for improvement,” said John R. Mundy, general manager for the District. “Consumption across the District is down by some 18 percent; but to reach the quota given to us by Metropolitan, we need to be closer to 24 percent and we need the community’s help in order to reach that goal.”

Along with other member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) is feeling the impacts of three years of reduced rainfall statewide and pumping restrictions that limit the amount of water transferred to southern California from the north. Unlike most other agencies, however, Las Virgenes is further affected in that there is no local water source to supplement the supply from Metropolitan.

After a full eight-week billing cycle under the District’s water budget program, readings show over half the LVMWD customer base has responded to the call to conserve, trimming water use to stay at or below their budgeted use amount. Another 30 percent have exceeded their budgeted use in small to moderate amounts and some 15 percent have had substantial penalties added to their bills for excess use, in a few cases amounting to some individual bills carrying thousands of dollars in additional charges.

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Mr. Mundy said LVMWD has been able to stay up with demand, but the additional water carries a heavy cost. If the District continues to exceed its allocated amount from Metropolitan, LVMWD will also face substantial financial penalties. “Under our current budget program, those who use more than the budgeted amount will pay the costs associated with bringing that additional water into our service area,” he said. “However, even with the additional charges, this excess use may not be sustainable should we continue to experience tight supply conditions. Currently, excess demand is being met by drawing from reserve supplies. Continued drought and pumping restrictions may force us to further reduce budgeted amounts unless all customers take mandatory conservation measures seriously.” He added that LVMWD will use the penalty funds collected to pay Metropolitan for costly additional supplies. Should there be any excess funds, that money will be used to further promote conservation practices.

LVMWD customers have also been reminded that bimonthly budgeted amounts will decrease through the fall and winter months. The District has urged customers to reduce outdoor water use by adjusting irrigation timers to reflect shorter hours of daylight, which reduces the amount of water needed by plants. “If a customer barely met their budget in the last bill, they must take additional action to reduce water use, or face a penalty in their next billing,” Mr. Mundy said. “Autumn and winter are the seasons to dramatically reduce the amount of water used outdoors.”

LVMWD has also announced the return of rebate programs for water-saving appliances such as toilets, washing machines, “smart” irrigation controllers and water-saving sprinkler heads. Details are available at the District’s website, [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com) or by calling 818.251.2200.

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“It’s never pleasant to ask customers to cut back,” said Mr. Mundy. “However, the supply challenges we face are real, and the only way we will succeed is with the help of each and every customer adopting water conservation as a shared community goal.”

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, wastewater services, recycled water and biosolids composting for more than 65,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Westlake Village, and Hidden Hills, as well as unincorporated portions of western Los Angeles County.

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