

# The Current Flow

Issue #6 ~ 2008

## Drought Update

### Prepare Now for Reduced Water Supplies Next Spring

With state reservoirs approaching critically low levels, judicial pumping restrictions impacting the State Water Project and below average precipitation in the Sierras, LVMWD customers need to prepare to significantly reduce their water use.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, LVMWD's sole source of water, has put member agencies on notice that severe restrictions may be forthcoming. For LVMWD customers, those cuts from "normal" supplies may be 20 percent or more.

For most LVMWD customers, nearly 70 percent of water use is outdoors. Homeowners and landscape contractors tend to overwater. At this time of year, irrigation systems should be operated only every third or fourth day. Inspect the system for leaks and repair them immediately. Be sure to examine the valves and connections of your irrigation system. If you see moisture, it's a sign of trouble. Winter is also an excellent time to replace "water-guzzling" plants and lawn areas with "California Friendly" varieties. A weather-based irrigation controller can take the "guesswork" out of watering.



Lake Oroville in northern California is the main source for LVMWD's water. The stored supply there has dropped over 2 million acre-feet in less than three years. Photo credit: Department of Water Resources

We don't expect you to "go it alone". Check our website, [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com), for conservation ideas and substantial rebates on many water-saving products. You can also request a free on-site water-use survey; call 818.251.2200 to make an appointment.

Refer to the District's "50 Ways to Save Water" brochure, available by calling Customer Service or through our website. Achieving a 20 percent reduction may sound like a lot; but unless there is a dramatic improvement in the supply situation, it may only be the first step.💧



Use leftover ice cubes to water plants or put them in your pet's water dish. [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com)



Wash only Full loads of laundry. [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com)



Discuss water saving ideas with your Family. [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com)



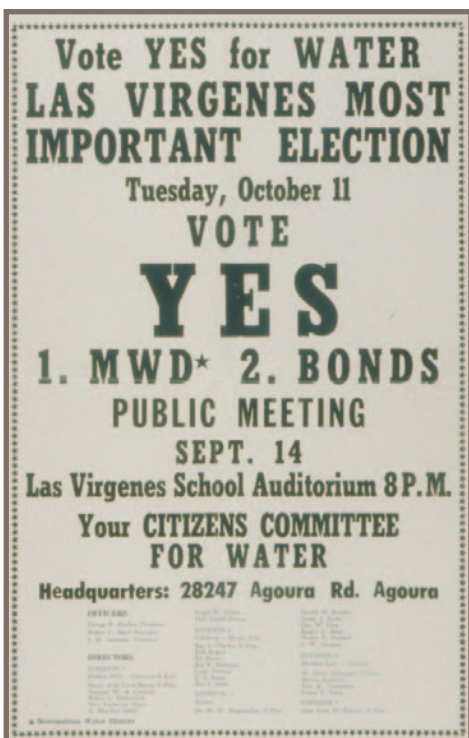
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News for customers of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District ~ 818.251.2100 ~ [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com)

# LVMWD's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Part 4

## Persistence and community support bring results.

In 1959 and early 1960, the possibility of importing water to the Las Virgenes region seemed remote. However, in nearby Ventura County, Calleguas Municipal Water District's (CMWD) board decided to hold a special election to annex CMWD to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and approve the sale of bonds. As this seemed to be the last and best chance to obtain MWD water, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) board members quickly voted to hold an election to also annex to MWD on the same date, October 11, 1960.



*Citizens Committee for Water poster for October 11 vote.*

Working closely with the Citizens Committee, every registered voter was contacted in the campaign. The Las Virgenes Enterprise published several special editions to keep residents informed. Fliers explained the issues including water shortages, the origin and operation of MWD and costs. An overwhelming 87% of the voters approved the bond issuance for LVMWD; 95% of the voters in southern Ventura County approved CMWD's proposal to join MWD.

The hard work and

perseverance of those committed to bringing imported water had not been in vain. Yet there was still much more to do.

As a new MWD member agency, LVMWD needed to sell bonds to finance construction and meet MWD's requirement of \$780,000 in back taxes. Sales of 2,000 bonds, priced at \$1,000 each, progressed and a joint powers agreement was signed with Calleguas. Construction of the pumping station, 8 million gallon tank and delivery system could begin. Elizabeth Hughes, a founding Board member, revised the original plan so that the first increment would bring water to or near all populated areas and fire stations in the district.

In early 1962, construction began on a 72-inch diameter pipeline across the San Fernando Valley from Glendale to Granada Hills. From there, a 54-inch feeder line ran to Chatsworth and through Simi Valley connecting to Calleguas. As soon as this was completed, the district began laying a 30-inch pipe from Chatsworth to Calabasas, terminating at an 8 million gallon tank.

With district plans underway, the board decided to employ a general manager. In early 1962, during the planning and construction phase, Myron McBride was hired. After three years McBride left and Will Stokes was hired as General Manager and Chief Engineer. Stokes oversaw construction of the critical "backbone" of the growing water system.

By July 1963, the system was complete enough to provide fire protection for most of the region. Las Virgenes citizens were rewarded with inexpensive, plentiful imported water and the first customer served was the Agoura Fire Station on Cornell Road. It was time to retire the post office box address and move into a permanent location. The board purchased a farmhouse on 5 acres on Las Virgenes Road to become headquarters, using the spring house for storage and the horse barn to house district vehicles and equipment. ♡

*Next: Sanitation services considered as population grows.*

## "Pennies From Heaven" Don't Waste Water When It Rains!

Why pay for water when it's falling from the sky? That seems like a simple question, yet each year, we often see irrigation systems operating during rain storms. It's easy to stop this wasteful practice. Most irrigation controllers have a button or switch marked "Rain".

Activating that feature shuts down watering until it is pressed again, after the stormy weather has passed.

During the cooler days of winter with less daylight, plants need less water. Be sure your irrigation controller is set to water no more than once or twice a week and not at all when it rains.

To print a refrigerator or garage door entrance reminder, please visit [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com) under "Conservation" then page down to "Sprinkler Reminders". ♡

## 2009 Quarterly Tour Dates

*"...so informative..."*

*"...everyone should visit your facilities..."*

*"...it's so important to understand where our water comes from and what happens to it after we've used it..."*

LVMWD is proud of the water services we provide and pleased to host free public tours of our facilities. These quotes from past guests sum up their experiences.

To learn about how we process and recycle wastewater, join us on February 28 or August 22. On this tour we'll visit Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.

To learn about your drinking water source and supplies, join us on either May 16 or November 7. We'll visit a pump station, Las Virgenes Reservoir, and LVMWD's Filtration Plant.

Each tour is held on a Saturday, from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A brief overview of current water issues is presented and a light lunch is provided. To sign up on-line, visit [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com), Community Outreach, or call 818-251-2200 during regular business hours. ♡

Safe, reliable drinking water

## Chlorine – A Century of Protecting Public Health

While LVMWD observes its 50th anniversary, another milestone in the U.S. water industry is being marked. In 1908, Jersey City, New Jersey began disinfecting drinking water with chlorine. Based on the success in that city, others quickly followed.

Prior to the adoption of this important safety measure, water-borne illnesses such as cholera, typhus and dysentery claimed thousands of lives, very often those who were very young, but also senior citizens. Presently, we seldom hear of those diseases. As a result, Life Magazine

referred to the filtration and treatment of drinking water with chlorine as “the most significant public health advance of the millennium.”

Today, water served by LVMWD is disinfected with ozone (oxygen) with a small amount of chlorine added to maintain the safety of water as it travels through the supply system to your home. Chlorine is also used in many swimming pools and spas to continually provide protection for the water we enjoy everyday.💧

## LVMWD Board Honors “Citizens of the Month”

As LVMWD marks its “50 Years of Service to the Community” through June of 2009, the Board of Directors is honoring outstanding citizens or organizations for their efforts in the development of the District, conservation efforts, educational programs or environmental stewardship.

### November

#### Los Angeles Pet Memorial Park

The L.A. Pet Memorial is celebrating 80 years of service to pet owners and the lasting bond that exists between pets and humans. The Pet Memorial is located on ten acres in Calabasas, the oldest thriving enterprise in that city. Among the very first customers of LVMWD, they later converted their irrigation system to use recycled water. Recent conservation upgrades to their irrigation system saved over \$13,000 in less than a year for this unique non-profit organization.



### December

#### Ginger Bistrow – Teacher, 4th Grade, Sumac Elementary

Mrs. Bistrow has been recognized for her commitment to conservation education and LVMWD’s annual Water Awareness Poster Contest. Mrs. Bistrow has encouraged her fellow teachers, as well as her students, to learn more about this precious resource. The artistic entries from Sumac over the past decade have been thoughtful, reflecting a deep knowledge of the need for conservation as a life-long practice and the need for protecting the environment.

### January

#### Las Virgenes Unified School District – Dr. Donald Zimring, Superintendent

With campuses throughout the service area, LVUSD is one of the water district’s largest customers. Working together, the school and water districts have greatly reduced water consumption, which allows more resources to be devoted to classroom education. Among the school district’s recent accomplishments are the conversion of two high school athletic fields to artificial turf, the replacement of urinals with waterless units, irrigation with recycled water at most facilities, the installation of weather-based irrigation controllers and an academic commitment to water conservation and environmental educational programs.💧



## Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board of Directors

### Division 1

Charles Caspary  
Treasurer

### Division 2

Glen Peterson  
MWD Representative

### Division 3

Lee Renger  
Vice President

### Division 4

Joseph M. Bowman  
President

### Division 5

Jeffery A. Smith  
Secretary

### General Manager

John R. Mundy

### District Counsel

Wayne K. Lemieux

*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...

## Prevent Pipes from Freezing



With winter's cooler nights, temperatures can dip close to and below freezing, especially in canyon areas and at higher elevations. Frozen waterlines are not only inconvenient, there is the potential for severe water damage to your home.

Prepare your pipes to help prevent them from freezing. Locate the water line that comes into your home. Wrap pipe with special tape or an insulation sleeve (available at hardware stores). If you have pipes that run through non-insulated areas of your house, these sections should be wrapped also. ♪



## THE MISSING PIECE

How is water served by LVMWD disinfected?

Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or visit our web site at [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com) and send your answer through Feedback and Inquiries. Prizes awarded monthly to ten winners randomly selected from the correct responses.

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

### How is the newspaper *Las Virgenes Enterprise* connected to LVMWD's early history?

Answer: Founded in 1958 and dedicated to "securing of a source of imported water within the means of all residents of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District". ♪

## Coyote Mints

These colorful and interesting plants are members of the mint family. They require well drained soil, have short underground rhizomes, develop clumps or small thickets of shoots, and range from ground cover size to 2 feet tall. Their predominant feature is their powerful aroma, a blend of sweet and minty to more pungent. Plants can often be purchased at native plant sales, botanic gardens, and specialized nurseries. ♪

*Monardella odoratissima*

Mountain Pennyroyal<sup>#</sup>

Beautiful purple flowers attract butterflies and bees; very minty fragrance. Cut back regularly to maintain shape. 2-3' h x 2-3' w



Coyote Mint<sup>#</sup>



*Monardella villosa*

A plant with light purple 1" flowers from June to August. Foliage is furry gray-green and butterflies are attracted to the plant. Likes sun to part shade. 1-2' h x 1' w

*Monardella nana*

Yellow Mountainbalm<sup>#</sup>

A low-lying, often matting plant, the stems are greenish white. Flowers are spidery white to light pink, about 1" long, and bloom from April to July. 6" h



Serpentine Monardella<sup>@</sup>



*Monardella purpurea*

Blunt-tipped leaves are up to 1" long and dark green. Flowers are reddish purple and bloom from mid-summer to early fall. 4" - 12" h

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

**Photo Credit:** <sup>#</sup>Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's <sup>@</sup>J. E. (Jed) and Bonnie McClellan, California Academy of Sciences