



LVMWD Board Approves Surcharge Refunds and Water Budget “Rollovers”

In a major change to the water allocation program, the LVMWD Board of Directors approved a water budget “roll over” policy which will accumulate under-usage across billing periods during the water-use year that begins each July.

The new policy will credit water use under bimonthly allotments against other billing periods where usage exceeds the budget for that period. The change was described as a policy similar to cellular telephone companies that allow unused “minutes” to roll over from one billing period to the next. The net effect will allow customers to better manage their water use across billing cycles and possibly reduce or eliminate penalties paid by customers who occasionally exceed their allotment limit.

Refund Credits Authorized

Because District-wide conservation has largely met goals to date, the Board also approved a policy that will credit money collected for over-budget use to a future bill. For those at or under their cumulative budgeted use during the last three billing periods in 2009, full credit will be applied. For those over their budgeted use, a 90 percent credit will be applied. The remaining 10 percent may be credited at a later time, provided the funds are not needed for LVMWD to pay the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for exceeding its agency allotment.

The credits will begin appearing in customer bills in May.

The policy changes were attributed to LVMWD customers conserving significant amounts of water and to reduced irrigation demand resulting from wet winter weather.

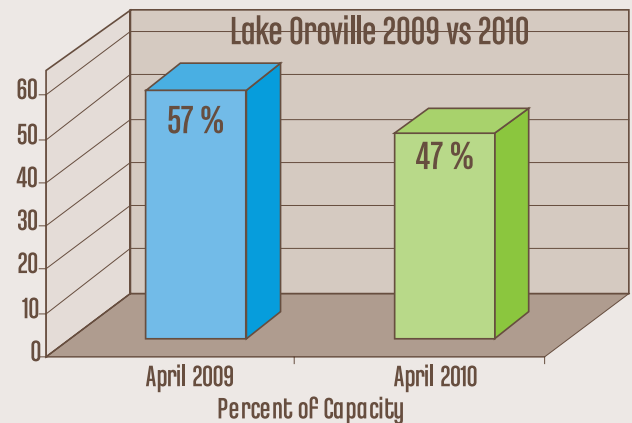
Final usage figures will not be available until late July; if further credits are warranted, affected customers will receive notifications with their service bills. ♪

Water Budgets Remain in Place

Because of court-ordered pumping restrictions and a winter of close to “average” precipitation in the watersheds of the State Water Project, the District’s water budget program will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

“This winter brought a ‘normal’ year of precipitation to much of California, which does little to replenish the reservoirs and aquifers that have been depleted over the last three years of drought,” said LVMWD General Manager John R. Mundy. “It will take several years of above average rain and snow in the Sierras, and the ability to pump that water to Southern California in order to replenish reserves before there’s a significant difference in our supply situation.”

LVMWD’s water budget program became effective in mid 2009 and has resulted in a decrease in water use of approximately 20 percent since it



began. “We’re fortunate the local rains allowed customers to shut down their irrigation systems for much of the winter,” Mr. Mundy said. “We need to maintain a conservation mindset in order to avoid paying significant penalties to the Metropolitan Water District.” ♪

Construction

Recycled Water Pipeline Installation



A new 24-inch recycled water pipeline is being installed in Malibu Canyon Rd. between the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility near Piuma Rd. to Mulholland Highway. The project should be complete by October 2010, weather permitting. To avoid delays, choose an alternate route during weekday construction hours. ♪

In This Issue

- ✓ **Rebates**
- ✓ **Keep Your Drains Healthy**
- ✓ **Water Supplies Still Tight**
- ✓ **Rock Garden Selections**

Do These Meters Look Familiar?

We hope you never have a broken pipe in your home; the resulting damage can be costly and may take several weeks to repair.

If you had to locate the water meter serving your home, would you know where it is? Could you get access into the box to turn the water off in an emergency? As these photos document, the meter box can be covered up, camouflaged, or trapped beneath fencing creating a hazard for you and water district staff.

In the event of a natural disaster or water emergency, you'll want quick access and it's best to be prepared for such incidents. Bushes, fences, rocks and other objects on top of the meter box will cause delays in reaching the turnoff handle and they can be a hazard for you personally.



Make sure the water meter area is clear by trimming back vegetation. Remove decorations that block access. Think about what you would have to do to gain access to the turnoff handle before an emergency strikes. If you remove the cover to your meter box, look carefully before reaching for the valve; sometimes spiders, snakes or other "occupants" are found inside.



Most water meters are in the sidewalk or in the driveway next to the sidewalk. In some older or extremely hilly areas, they may be situated beyond the sidewalk, sometimes in areas now covered with landscaping. If you need assistance locating the meter box or operating the handle, contact Customer Service at (818) 251-2200. Do it now and you'll be better prepared.💧

In an emergency, could you turn your water off at one of these meters?



“Normal” Water Year Means Supplies Are Still Tight

The snow surveys conducted by the California Department of Water Resources indicate the state had a “normal” year’s precipitation during the winter of 2009-10. Drought-weary water managers welcomed the news but the average rain and snow did little to help replenish depleted reservoirs and aquifers that have been drawn down over the last three years.

Adding to the state’s water supply problems, judicial pumping restrictions remain in place to protect threatened species including salmon and the Delta Smelt. As a result, very little water can be moved through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to central and southern California farms and cities at a time when spring runoff water is most abundant.

Water managers and climatologists say several years of above-normal rain and snow will be needed to help refill storage facilities, along with the ability to pump water into the state’s distribution systems south of the Delta.



For water customers, that means continued conservation practices that include limited irrigation schedules, no washing down hardscape with a hose, promptly repairing leaks, washing only full loads of clothing and dishes and having a “trigger” nozzle on the hose when washing cars. 💧



California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Chief of Cooperative Snow Survey Frank Gehrke weighs a snow sample January 29, 2010 near Meyers, California. The survey measured an average depth of 67.8 inches, and that Sierra-wide the snowpack is 117% of normal. Gehrke stated that much more would be needed to refill reservoirs and relieve California’s drought.

Photos courtesy of DWR

Save Water - Save Money

Rebate\$

Water savings begin at home and the easiest way to save is to let new appliances and fixtures do the “thinking” for you. LVMWD can help with rebates on new high efficiency toilets, washing machines, weather-based irrigation controllers and water-efficient sprinkler heads.

Go to www.LVMWD.com and click on Customer Rebates for details, or call Customer Service at 818-251-2200 and ask for rebate information. 💧



Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board of Directors

Division 1

Charles Caspary
President

Division 2

Glen Peterson
MWD Representative
Secretary

Division 3

Lee Renger
Vice President

Division 4

Joseph M. Bowman
Board Member

Division 5

Jeffery A. Smith
Treasurer

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...

Keep Your Drains Healthy



Just as eating properly helps maintain your health, watching what goes down household drains will help keep them healthy and working properly. The easiest “foods” to avoid are fats, oils and grease. Called FOG, these items can collect in the wastewater drains and pipes of your home and could cause blockages or sewer spills.

Instead of allowing FOG to go down the drain, scrape dishes and cooking pans into the trash and wipe with paper towels to remove as much of the FOG as possible before washing. You can almost hear your drain say ‘thank you’.



THE MISSING PIECE

This winter brought a ‘normal’ year of precipitation to much of California. True or False?

Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or submit your answer electronically by sending an e-mail to dlow@LVMWD.com with “Missing Piece” in the subject line. 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:

We’ve had rain. Is the drought over?

Answer: No. Judicial pumping restrictions and depleted reservoirs contribute to water supply shortages.

Rock Garden Selections

In our region of chaparral hillsides and Mediterranean climate, rock gardens are a logical choice for landscaping. These selections are drought tolerant, requiring little to no water once established, and bear attractive blossoms.

Erigeron glaucus

Native to California, this perennial forms a clump of blue-green foliage topped by abundant lavender flowers most of the year. 1' h x 1-1/2' w

Seaside Daisy¹



Tidy Tips¹



Layia polatyglossa

Native to California, this annual easily self seeds and bears showy yellow-white composite blossoms in the spring with narrow gray-green leaves. Good for slopes that drain well. 6" h x 1' w

Sempervivum tectorum

A succulent, this gray-green perennial forms rosettes that develop into clumps up to 2' wide. Reddish pink blossoms are displayed on 2' stems in summer. 6" h x 2-5"+ w

Hens and Chickens²⁹



Rockrose³¹



Cistus creticus

A Mediterranean native shrub, a variety of colors are available. Prefers sun and does well in poor soil. Good for erosion control on dry banks and in rocky areas. 3' h x 3' 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 \(http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html\)](http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html).

Photo Credit: ¹ Br. Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College, ²⁹ Louis M. Landry, ³¹ Luigi Rignanese