



Fire Hydrants Need Your Protection!

A key reason for having a water district is fire protection, which is why LVMWD has over 3,000 fire hydrants in its service area. Often ignored, these important sources of water need to be “handled with care.” If water is seen leaking from or around a hydrant, please notify LVMWD immediately. The most frequent form of damage to hydrants is from vehicles striking them.



During fire incidents, residents may be tempted to access water from a hydrant. Don't!

Hydrants should only be accessed by LVMWD technicians or authorized emergency response agencies. The high pressures and high volume water flow from a hydrant can cause injury. In addition, unauthorized use can damage the water system or deprive firefighters of water they need elsewhere.💧

Rates Change January 1

LVMWD customers are reminded that a potable water rate adjustment will apply to bills mailed after January 1, 2011. The rate change passes along an increase from the Metropolitan Water District, LVMWD's sole supplier of potable water. Recycled water and sanitation (sewer) rates remain unchanged.💧



These photos of hydrants are just an example of the type you might see in your neighborhood.

Water Conservation Still Important

LVMWD Customers can take advantage of the autumn and winter months as times to “catch up” if they have been over their budgeted water use. By reducing irrigation to two days per week and eliminating irrigation for several days after a rainy period, water use falls rapidly. Remember to check your home

for leaky faucets and consider replacing old toilets and clothes washers with new water-efficient models.

During the first few months of the new “water year” that began in July, District-wide use is above LVMWD's seasonal allocation. Customers are reminded that penalties for over-budget use still apply.💧

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Local Student Artists Honored

Selected from over 2500 entries, LVMWD's top twelve finalists in the 2009/2010 Water Awareness Poster Contest were honored this spring at a meeting of the board of directors. Each poster will appear as a month in LVMWD's 2011 desk calendar. In addition, three of the young artists were selected by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for inclusion in their annual 2011 wall calendar. The messages in all the posters promote the importance of water conservation – congratulations to all our finalists.💧



Row 1: Lily Polvy, Bernice Nguyen, Evan Nicol, Alexandra Lee
Row 2: Ruby Henriksen, Denna Hadipour, Evan Johnson, Danielle Ovadia, Ava Naziri
Row 3: Jenna Forston, Julie Pfau, Evelyn Chang

“You need to water more, Sir”

Local homeowner shares water conservation experiences.

As a homeowner and LVMWD customer I can't tell you how many times I've heard the above statement from the various gardeners and landscape companies that I've used over my almost 20 years living in the area. Despite efforts made to educate area gardeners about water management, it seems that whenever a homeowner expresses concern about poor plant condition the standard response from many gardeners is 'water more'. The problem with this seemingly simple response is two-fold; first, at the end of the billing cycle when I get my water bill the gardener never seems to be around to see the financial impact of his sage advice and secondly more often than not, I've discovered that just cranking up the time on your sprinkler system will not fix the problem.

Recently I walked my property with my gardener who, compared to the others I've had, understands the high cost of water. The conversation started with me showing him areas of the property that were not doing too well and – you guessed it – his response was that I needed more water. A closer inspection revealed that the areas I had concern about DID need more water but they were not going to get it just by increasing the time on my sprinkler system. Every one of the 5 or 6 problem spots we went over had some sort of problem with the sprinkler system (cracked risers, broken heads, heads out of adjustment etc.). As you can see, if I had just increased the time on my system, the only result would have been to waste more water.

Turn your sprinklers on, walk around and take notes. Water bubbling up around the base of the sprinkler is not a good thing and often means you have a cracked 'riser' or 'body' causing gallons to just flow out – which reduces the flow to the other sprinklers in that zone. Is the water actually going where it should, are the sprinklers aimed properly? Are plants covering up a sprinkler head preventing its spray from reaching where intended? In every one of the above cases just adding more time to the timer will just cost you money and not fix the problem.

-Todd Berstein💧

“Behind the Scenes” Tours in 2011

LVMWD hosts quarterly tours for customers to see the processes of water filtration and wastewater treatment. Sign up for one of these educational and entertaining tours – learn where your drinking water comes from, how it gets to your tap, and what happens once it goes down the drain.

Potable Water System tour dates:
Sat. May 7 and Sat. Nov. 5

Wastewater Treatment tour dates:
Sat. Feb. 5 and Sat. Aug. 6

Registration is required to attend. Sign up on-line at www.LVMWD.com, under Services/Quarterly Facilities Tours, or call 818-251-2100.

Guests must be at least 12 years old and those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Moderate walking and stairs should be expected.

All tours start at 8:45 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. A light lunch is provided.💧

Regional Board Renews Tapia's Permit

At its September meeting, the Regional Water Quality Control Board granted a new five-year permit for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility operated by LVMWD. The new permit contains direction to further reduce disinfection byproducts, a mandate for additional Malibu Creek watershed monitoring and a study on past creek monitoring efforts.

The directive for reducing disinfection byproducts from Tapia's highly-treated effluent will result in study and ultimately construction of new infrastructure to comply with new limits. The resulting capital investment is estimated in the area of \$8 million and must be completed by September 2014.💧

Lupin Hill Elementary Saves with Artificial Turf

Raising funds and receiving donations, PFA leaders at Lupin Hill were able to install water-saving and attractive artificial turf in a much used play area on the school grounds.💧



L to R: Rhonda Bacot, Karen Kimmel, The Lupin Hill Tiger, Rebecca Golden, Kimber Salvaggio, Sheila Grady, Kim Tosi Hamilton, Antasha Lange, Bonnie Latham Lyon & Deborah Low (LVMWD)



\$\$\$ Rebates Available to Commercial Customers, Too!



Rebates for certain water-saving devices continue to be available for LVMWD residential customers; see our website (www.LVMWD.com) for details. But commercial customers have not been forgotten. Operators of restaurants, stores and office buildings can benefit by purchasing qualified items that can reduce water use indoors and out.

Information on the "Save Water – Save a Buck" commercial rebate program, including qualified devices and how to make an advance reservation, can be found at www.bewaterwise.com 💧

Time to "Remodel" Your Irrigation System?

Every few years folks think about a new car, or redecorating with paint, carpets or even a new kitchen. Since most of the water in our service area is used outdoors, how about using these cooler months to "remodel" your irrigation system?



Over the years, irrigation lines crack, leak or become outmoded due to changes in landscape design. New

irrigation technologies include water-saving sprinkler heads, drip irrigation systems and efficient new "weather based" irrigation controllers that adjust watering with the weather. Imagine – no more watering on rainy days!

You can "do it yourself" or look for a certified Water Conservation Landscape Professional (see our website www.LVMWD.com under "Conservation"). Are you still using an old-fashioned irrigation system? Upgrade now and save next summer!💧

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

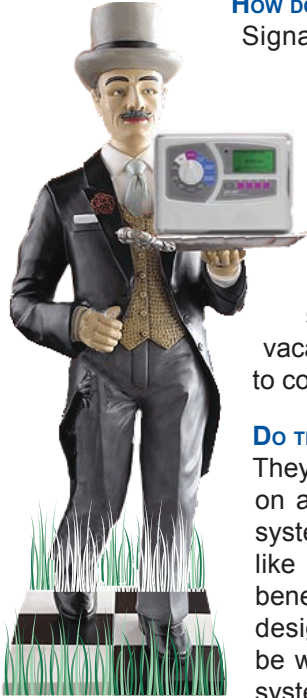
Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment
Biosolids Composting



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

At Your Service...

FAQs: Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers



HOW DO THEY WORK?

Signal-based controllers rely on daily weather updates received from satellite signals or require an internet connection to receive the information. Sensor-based models use on-site weather or solar sensors to create irrigation schedules.

ARE THEY RIGHT FOR ALL LANDSCAPES?

WBICs are most cost-effective for medium-size or larger landscapes. They work well for vacation homes or homeowners who do not want to continually adjust their irrigation controllers.

DO THEY REALLY SAVE WATER?

They are proven to reduce landscape water use on average by 8% in well-maintained irrigation systems. However, WBICs cannot correct things like overspray, leaks, or poor design. To really benefit from a WBIC, you should have a properly designed and maintained irrigation system, or be willing to make repairs and changes to your system if it is not working well.💧



THE MISSING PIECE

How long is the term of Tapia's new discharge permit?

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:

What is the purpose of the new 24" recycled pipeline?

Answer: *Provide additional volume and reliable service and help conserve potable water imported from northern California.*💧

Plants with Winter Color

These plants will provide areas of color for your winter landscape, are water efficient and can be used in attractive seasonal arrangements. These plants are also available in pots and make great gifts for the winter season.💧

Heteromeles arbutifolia Toyon¹⁹

A California native, this large shrub displays bright red berries in the winter. A small tree shape is possible with trimming. 8-20' h x 20' w



Hollyleaf Cherry¹



Prunus ilicifolia

This small shrub is also a native Californian and useful as screens or hedges. Delicate creamy white flowers appear April – May, followed by red cherry-like fruit. Grows well in poor soil. Shape by trimming to maintain size. 3-20' h x 10' w

Euphorbia pulcherrima Pointsettia³¹

Hailing from Mexico, this plant can grow outdoors in well drained soil in a sheltered place with full sun and minimum care. Leaves change color when daylight hours shorten. 10+' h x 6' w



Fuchsia-flowering Gooseberry³²



Ribes speciosum

This deciduous shrub will bear scarlet tubular flowers winter through spring. Thorns on stems make this a good barrier planting. Many birds are attracted to the blossoms. 5' h x 4' 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, Saint Mary's College; ¹⁹ George W. Hartwell; ³¹ Luigi Rignanese; ³² Lynn Watson