

As the current drought continues to worsen, the District remains committed to helping customers conserve water and educating them on the best ways to reduce wasteful water usage. The District launched its Strategic Communications Plan for Drought Messaging on June 1, 2021. The plan serves as a roadmap for assisting, educating and inspiring customers to use water wisely, day in and day out. With the activation of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan at Stage 2 – Water Shortage Warning, several new initiatives are proposed for implementation. Among the new initiatives to help the District achieve the call for a 15% reduction in water use is the enforcement of existing policies to eliminate wasteful water use. Enforcement actions are authorized by Section 3-4.406 of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Code.

In 2018, an important legislative package was approved by the Governor requiring water agencies to implement a variety of water conservation efforts, many of which are on-going whether or not drought conditions are declared. Assembly Bill 1668 and Senate Bill 606 call for *Conservation as a Way of Life in California* and mandate that water agencies prohibit certain wasteful water use practices. Following is a copy of Section 3-4.404 of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Code, which codified the policies that are intended to prevent wasteful water use:

*(a) Customers shall comply with the following water conservation measures:*

*(1) Potable water shall not be used to clean or sweep hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways, or parking areas and only as necessary to protect the public health and safety.*

*(2) Hotels, motels and other places for commercial transient occupancy shall offer guests who stay more than one night the opportunity to retain towels and linens during their stay.*

*(3) Car washing is permitted only with the use of a nozzle having an automatic shut-off.*

*(4) Fountains and other decorative water features shall recirculate water.*

*(5) Drinking water shall be served only upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased.*

*(b) Customers shall use the following irrigation practices:*

*(1) Irrigation shall occur after 5:00 p.m. and before 10:00 a.m. No irrigation is permitted during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.*

*(2) Irrigation shall not run off to streets, gutters or adjacent properties.*

Following is a copy of Section 3-4.406 of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Code, which outlines the process for enforcement of the District's policies to prevent wasteful water use:

*(a) Customers shall be notified in writing when the first violation of this article is discovered by the District. The notice shall include a warning that further violations*