

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Update on Drought Emergency and Local Response

Town Hall Meeting

May 11, 2022



Welcome!

Town Hall Meeting Agenda

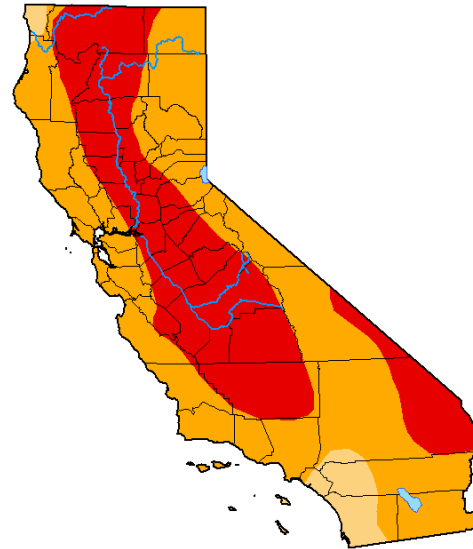
- 6:00 – 6:10** **Introductions, Overview and Protocols**
- 6:10 – 6:15** **Water Supply and Drought Conditions**
- 6:15 – 6:20** **Current Response Measures**
- 6:20 – 6:25** **Metropolitan Emergency Water Conservation Program**
- 6:25 – 6:30** **Strategies to Mitigate Impacts**
- 6:30 –** **Questions and Answers**



Statewide Drought

- Third consecutive year of drought on heels of 2012-16 statewide drought
- Driest 3-month stretch between January to March since record keeping began
- Below average snowpack, record high temperatures and runoff that did not materialize
- Major reservoirs well below average levels
- Urban, agricultural and environmental uses all impacted

U.S. Drought Monitor
California



May 3, 2022
(Released Thursday, May 5, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

| | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
| Current | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 95.18 | 40.51 | 0.00 |
| Last Week 04-26-2022 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 95.18 | 40.56 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago 02-01-2022 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 99.25 | 66.39 | 1.39 | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 99.30 | 67.62 | 16.60 | 0.84 |
| Start of Water Year 09-28-2021 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 93.93 | 87.88 | 45.66 |
| One Year Ago 05-04-2021 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 97.52 | 92.88 | 73.31 | 5.36 |

Intensity:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| None | D2 Severe Drought |
| D0 Abnormally Dry | D3 Extreme Drought |
| D1 Moderate Drought | D4 Exceptional Drought |

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

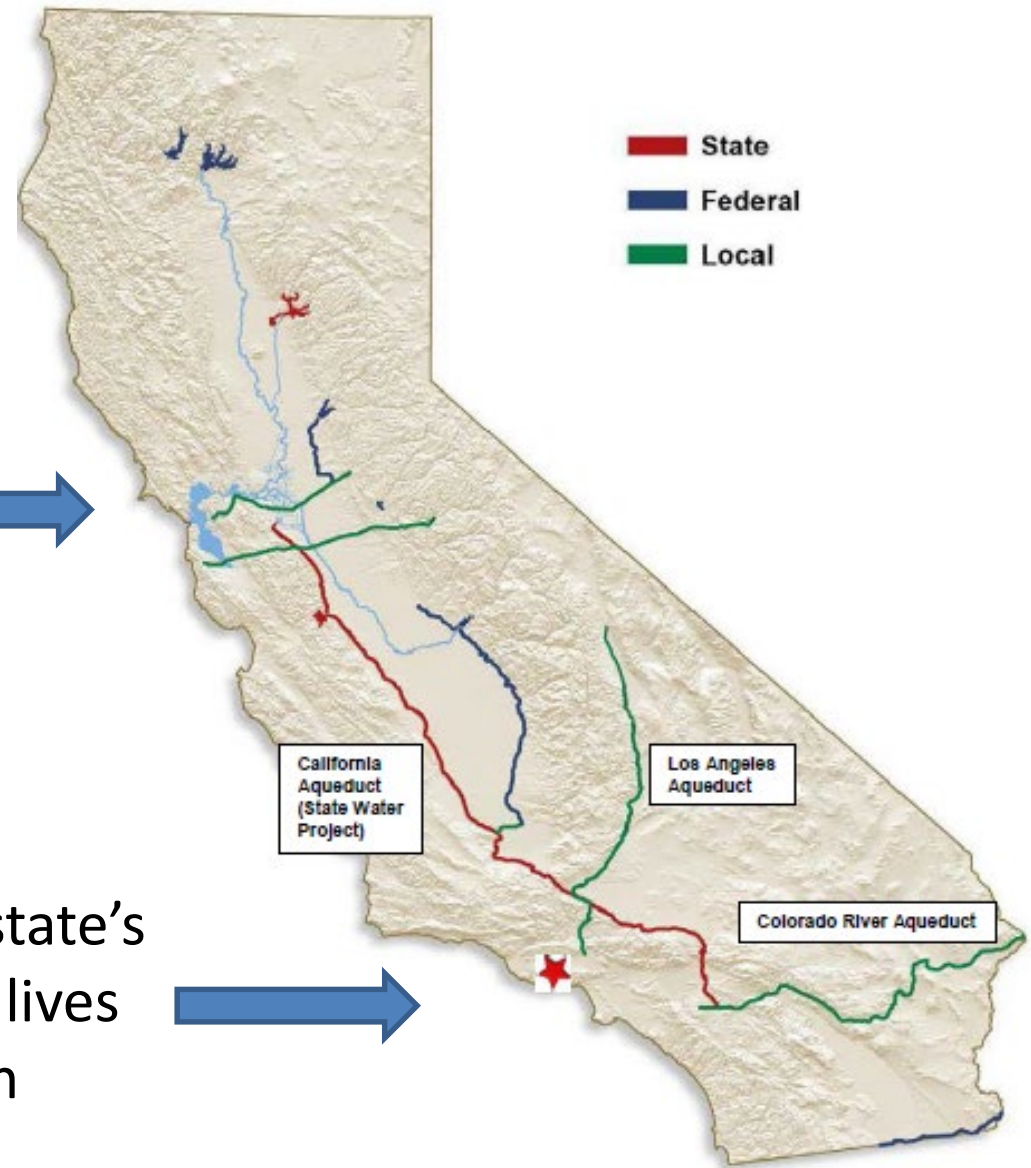


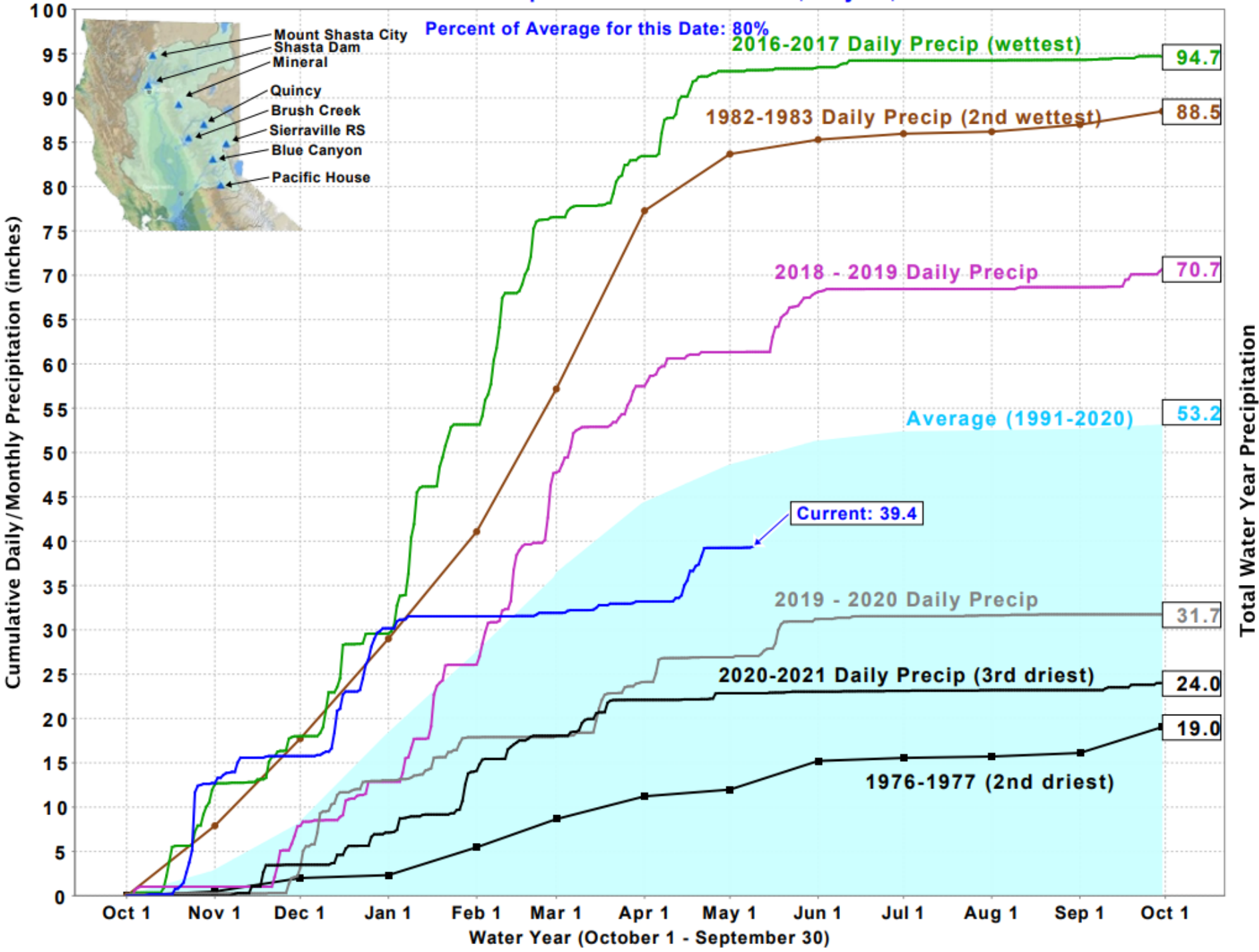
Sources of California's Water

2/3 of the state's water falls in the north

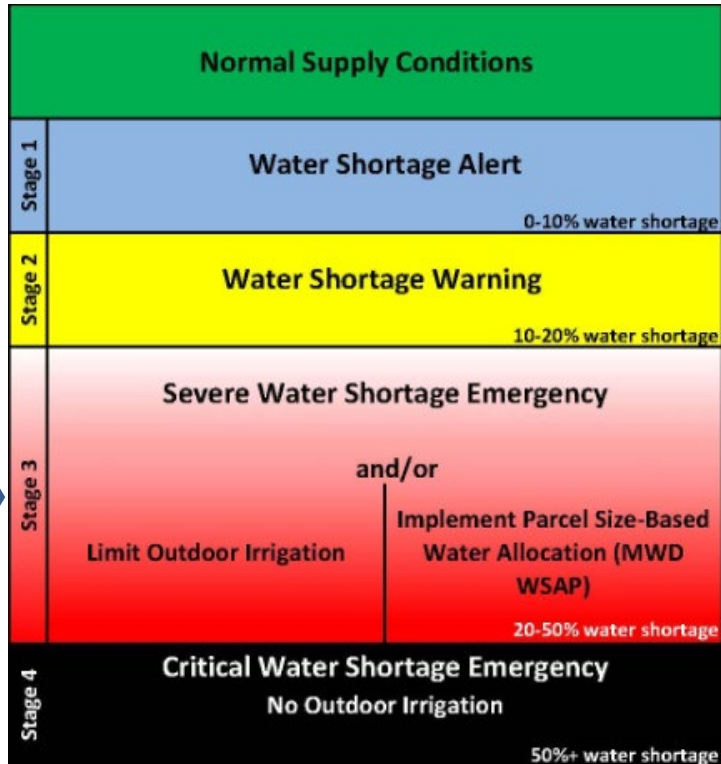


2/3 of the state's population lives in the south





State, Regional and Local Actions



- June 15, 2021 – District declared a Stage 1 Water Shortage Alert. Messaging to customers begins
- July 8, 2021 - Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-10-21 calling for 15 percent voluntary reductions
- July 20, 2021 – District declared a Stage 2 Water Shortage Warning and called for 15% voluntary reduction in water use
- August 17, 2021 – MWD issued Water Supply Alert
- November 2, 2021 – District Board Declared local drought emergency and Stage 3 - Water Shortage Emergency



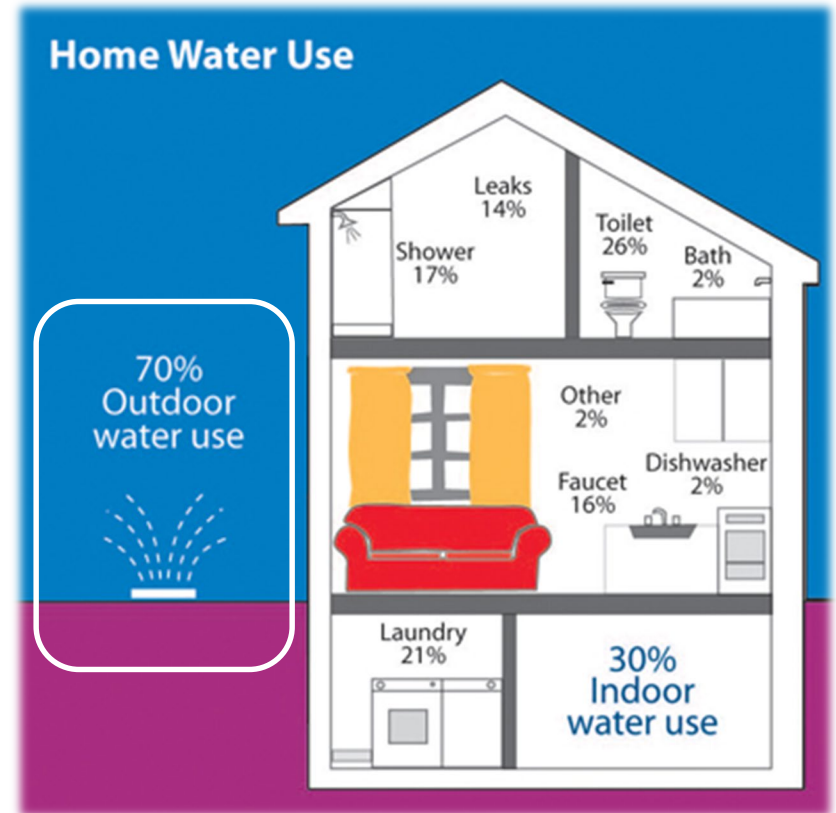
State, Regional and Local Actions (cont.)

- November 16, 2021 – District Board modifies penalty structure for exceedances during droughts
- March 18, 2022 – CADWR announces reduction in SWP allocation from 15% to 5%
- March 28, 2022 – Governor Newsom issued N-7-22, calling for intensified efforts to “further conserve water”
- April 5, 2022 – Board reduces outdoor water budgets to by 50%, effective May 1st
- April 26, 2022 – MWD adopts Emergency Water Conservation Program (one day per week watering)
- May 17, 2022 – Board to adopt new measures



What Does It All Mean for Us?

- Stay informed – visit www.lvmwd.com/droughtresponse
- Register for WaterSmart and monitor water usage
- Review your water bill each month
- Significantly reduce outdoor watering
- Eliminate water waste (overwatering/broken sprinkler heads)
- Take advantage of available rebates/incentives (indoor/outdoor)



Take “Control” of your Irrigation Controller



Steps:

1. Find the controller
2. Replace with new battery if not done w/in past 6 months
3. Make sure date/time is set correctly
4. Disable/erase existing schedules
5. Set runtime to either Tuesday or Thursday watering only, depending on street address
6. Set each station to no more than 8 minutes each
7. If Rachio – set to “fixed schedule” for one day watering 8 minutes maximum. ***Make sure to disable existing Flex Daily or Flex Monthly setting***



Current Mandatory Practices

No irrigation between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Irrigation may not occur during or 48 hours following a rain event.

Irrigation may not result in excess runoff.

Washing down of sidewalks and driveways is prohibited.

Trigger nozzle is required on hoses used for home car washing.

Hotels/motels must give multi-night guests the option not to have towels and linens replaced daily.

Restaurants may only serve water upon request.





Enforcement

- Door hanger/Warning Letter
- Escalating water wasting fine structure (\$100, \$200 or \$500)
- For usage exceeding 150% of water budget, District may apply wasteful water use penalties and possibly install a flow restriction device



Las Virgenes
Municipal Water
District
(818) 251-2200



**LVMWD Water Conservation
Alert**

Date: 4/11/2022 Time: 1:00pm

Sorry we missed you. LVMWD staff was at your residence today to respond to a wasteful water event and to assist in correcting the issue.

Runoff from property

Broken sprinkler

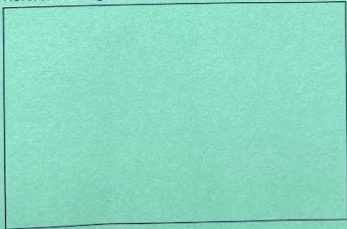
Irrigation running between 10 am and 5 pm

Irrigation running within 48 hours after a rain event

Other _____

Notes: Runoff into street/
Gutter

Reference Diagram



over →

Outdoor Water Budget Exceedances

- 1st penalty: A warning will be provided along with an estimate of what the penalty amount would have been
- 2nd penalty: An extra charge of \$2.50 per unit of water (748 gallons) over 150% of water budget
- 3rd penalty: An extra charge of \$5.00 per unit of water over 150% of budget. Customers that receive a 3rd or subsequent penalties are also subject to the **installation of a flow restriction device***
- 4th penalty: An extra charge of \$7.50 per unit of water over 150% of budget
- 5th and subsequent penalties: An extra charge of \$10.00 per unit of water over 150% of budget

*District is allowing for four exceedances before an installation



Enforcement Statistics To-Date

- 2nd exceedance notice: 4,622 (22%)
- 4th exceedance notice: 948 (4.5%)
- Wasteful water practice warnings: 298
- Wasteful water practice fines: 4
- Flow restriction devices – anticipated at the end of May



Emergency Water Conservation Program

- Adopted by MWD Board on April 26, 2022
- Requires Member Agencies to implement one of two options:
 - One Day Per Week Watering (55 gallons per person per day indoor needs + one day irrigation for 8 minutes)
 - Volumetric Limit (81 gallons per person per day indoor/outdoor)
 - On average each LVMWD customer uses 205 gallons/day
- One Day Per Week Option provides ~74% more water for irrigation than the Volumetric Limits for LVMWD customers
 - 13.3 million gallons per week for Volumetric
 - 23.1 million gallons per week for One Day



New Measures (Proposed)

- One Day Per Week Irrigation System watering starting June 1, 2022 pending Board adoption on Tuesday, May 17
 - Tuesdays only: Property addresses ending in 0, 2,4,6,8
 - Thursdays only: Property addresses ending in 1,3,5,7,9
- No Irrigation of *non-functional turf* on commercial, industrial and institutional properties ***using potable water***
- District's flushing from hydrants (fire flow tests) and water mains for clearing the lines: Water must be captured and beneficially reused to greatest extent possible



Exemptions

- Drip Irrigation Systems
- Hand Watering – bucket, watering can or hose with auto shutoff nozzle
- Recycled water (purple pipe)
- Topping off swimming pools
- Maintenance of solar panels and tennis courts
- Dust control for corrals
- Washing/watering animals



Strategies to Mitigate Impacts

- Free compost to improve water absorption
- Hand water trees and perennials
- Install a drip irrigation system
- Recycled water (hauling)
 - Free fill station at Rancho
 - Expanded program details being developed
 - May not be available if supplies run low
- Make sure sprinklers are adjusted/functioning properly
- Allow your lawn to turn brown, while still watering trees and vegetated slopes
- Cover your pool covers to reduce evaporation
- Hold off on new landscaping (for now)



HOA Provisions

- An HOA cannot issue a fine or assessment on a homeowner for reducing or eliminating the watering of vegetation or lawns during a **state or locally-declared drought emergency** (Civil Code section 4735(c))
- An HOA cannot enforce architectural or landscaping guidelines or policies that prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting, compliance with most local water-efficient landscape ordinances
- An HOA cannot require that a homeowner pressure wash the exterior of their home, vehicles and concrete surfaces during a declared state of drought emergency (Civil Code section 4736(b))



Bottom Line

- LVMWD is experiencing a local, regional, and state-declared water emergency
- We are nearly 100% dependent on imported SWP supplies for drinking
- Water conservation results are falling short of targets
- District must implement enforcement of outdoor watering restrictions (50% of outdoor budget)
- Staff recommending adoption of a one-day-per-week watering restriction, beginning on June 1, 2022, to comply with MWD Emergency Water Conservation Program
- Current watering restrictions are unprecedented, and lack of response could result in a complete ban on outdoor watering later this year (September 1st)
- Drought could continue into next year
- We're in this together and need everyone's help to respond



Everyone Can Help

Anonymous Reporting

Send a photo or e-mail from
your smartphone to:

stopthewaste@LVMWD.com

or

Call LVMWD (818) 251-2200



Available Resources

Stay Informed, FAQs, Commitment Form: www.lvmwd.com/droughtresponse

Register for WaterSmart: www.lvmwd.com/advancedmeters

Water Budget Info/Appeal Penalties:

www.lvmwd.com/for-customers/water-budgets

Customer Service: **(818) 251-2100**

(we are experiencing a very high volume of calls, please be patient)

