

THE CURRENT FLOW

Summer 2022



NEWS FOR THE VALUED CUSTOMERS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



What's Inside

This issue is meant to inform customers on the ongoing District response to the drought and water supply shortages for our region.

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LVMWD Customers Continue to Conserve

Despite warmer, drier weather, LVMWD customers still conserved 36% compared to 2020 usage.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors unanimously approved a commitment to ensure equitable access to its water supply and storage assets by building infrastructure, increasing local supply availability, expanding partnerships, and advancing water use efficiency at its August 16th Board meeting.

The call to action comes in response to disparate impacts from the historic drought on six member agencies, serving approximately 6.6 million residents of Southern California. The affected areas are referred to as "State Water Project (SWP) dependent" because they rely almost 100% on imported water from the SWP and lack access to alternate supplies stored in Diamond Valley Lake or delivered via the Colorado River Aqueduct. LVMWD is the most severely affected of the SWP dependent area agencies, facing a 73% reduction in supply from MWD, as its service area lacks local drinking water supplies.

"This is incredibly significant for us," remarked LVMWD General Manager David Pedersen. "The action is a big step forward in our effort to improve the District's water supply reliability. It is reassuring that the MWD Board confirmed its commitment to provide equitable access to MWD's supplies and storage to all member agencies in Southern California. While it will take time to build the infrastructure to receive the full benefit of that commitment, we can now move forward as quickly as possible to make this promise a reality for the future."

Among several proposed policy statements, MWD committed to eliminate inconsistent water supply reliability, reconfigure, and expand its existing infrastructure, and ensure that all member agencies receive an equivalent level of reliability. This action is particularly important to LVMWD's customers – who currently rely on just one source of water from the SWP – as it will allow the District to receive water from other sources such as Diamond Valley Lake and the Colorado River. Diversifying water sources is integral to ensuring long-term reliability.

Additional commitments by the MWD Board included increased investments in water use efficiency and landscape transformation programs; additional development of local supplies through recycled water, groundwater recovery, stormwater capture, and desalination; and stabilizing supplies through conveyance improvements, storage infrastructure, and water-loss prevention.

"I am pleased with the Metropolitan Board decision," said Jay Lewitt, president of the LVMWD Board of Directors. "This is the first in a series of actions that must be taken to be prepared for the challenges brought on by this new and evolving climate landscape."

In the meantime, LVMWD customers have so far answered the call for emergency conservation, collectively reducing water use throughout the District by 37% in June, 32% in July, and 36% for August compared to the same months in 2020.

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Las Virgenes – Triunfo JPA Receives \$10.2 Million for Pure Water Project

Las Virgenes – Triunfo JPA received a \$10.2 million grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the Pure Water Project (PWP). The funding was made available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is contingent upon the JPA satisfying all grant requirements.

The Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo is the JPA's most recent development in its long history of enhancing water supply reliability for the region. At full scale, the water reuse project will purify highly treated recycled water to beyond drinking water standards through an advanced treatment process that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation. As the first indirect potable reuse project using reservoir water augmentation in the greater Los Angeles area, the Pure Water Project will allow the JPA to source up to 20% of the region's water supply locally.

"We're excited to receive this grant for a critical project that will improve water supply reliability throughout the region," said LVMWD General Manager David Pedersen. "The Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo is an important investment for a sustainable future, and this funding is key to making it happen."

USBR announced the allocation of \$310 million in funding for 25 projects across the West. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates a total of \$8.3 billion for USBR water infrastructure projects, including \$1 billion in WaterSMART recycling and reuse grants.



The Pure Water Demonstration Facility, boasting a sustainability garden and a massive mural visible through floor-to-ceiling windows, serves as an immersive education center for the public to learn about the advanced treatment process. Additionally, the facility provides the opportunity for staff and operators to get familiar with the treatment technology before going full scale in 2030.

"Funding opportunities like this grant are key to making this project happen," commented JPA Board Chair Jay Lewitt. "We will continue to pursue grant opportunities at the state and federal levels, as well as low interest loans, to minimize the financial impact on our ratepayers."

Tours of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility are available every month. Visit www.ourpureh2o.com for more information.

LVMWD Tools to Help Customers Save

More information on LVMWD water budgets can be found at www.LVMWD.com/WaterBudgets

Rebates for water saving devices can be found at www.LVMWD.com/Rebates

Rachio users can watch a "tips and tricks" video including how to reduce your irrigation by 50% at www.LVMWD.com/Rachio

Information on picking up free compost can be viewed at www.LVMWD.com/Community-Compost

Register for your WaterSmart portal and take advantage of near real time water use and leak detection at www.lvmwd.watersmart.com

LVMWD Customers Conserve

cont. from front

As a result, water reserves meant for prolonged drought are temporarily keeping the region afloat. However, we cannot let up – we must continue to conserve.

A complete ban on outdoor watering is currently not anticipated before December 1st. If an outdoor watering ban is required on or after December 1st, it would be triggered because customers in State Water Project dependant areas have not conserved enough and/or below average precipitation levels.

The District remains in Stage 3 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and customers are required to continue adhering to the current one-day-per-week watering schedule. LVMWD continues to work diligently to secure additional water supply from other sources.

Three Dollars per Square Foot Available for Turf Replacement

Now is the perfect time to let your lawn go golden while you plan your California friendly landscape, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will help you do it! MWD is offering LVMWD customers \$3 per square foot of turf converted to climate-appropriate gardens while funding lasts.

Did you know that traditional grass requires approximately 45 inches of water per year, yet we only receive an average of 13 inches of rainfall annually? That deficit is typically made up by irrigating with expensive imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through the State Water Project. Due to the current drought emergency, allocations from the State Water Project were reduced significantly, forcing MWD, our water wholesaler, to enforce outdoor watering restrictions.



Stop watering your lawn now and your property will be ready to plant with beautiful and interesting native and drought-tolerant plants in the late-fall or winter. These plants not only require less water, but they also require less maintenance, don't need any fertilizers or pesticides, and create habitat for native wildlife. All of this helps build resiliency for the Santa Monica Mountains! Apply now through socalwatersmart.com. Make sure to take your before photos and pick up a free "Water Conservation in Progress Here" yard sign from LVMWD HQ. While you're there, visit the Sustainability Garden for inspiration!



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District Counsel
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP

You may direct communications to LVMWD Board members by sending an e-mail to: board@LVMWD.com

Board meetings are scheduled at 9 a.m.
on the first and third
Tuesday of each month

Board Meetings are now live-streamed on the District's website at LVMWD.com/LiveStream

Las Virgenes - Triunfo JPA
meets the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m.

Check LVMWD.com/Board-Meetings for
Board meeting and agenda information

Customer Service -
(818) 251-2200

After Hours Emergency -
(818) 251-2100

Report Water Waste -
StopTheWaste@LVMWD.com.

Rebate Information
LVMWD.com/Rebates

Potable Water
Recycled Water
Waste Water Treatment
Biosolids Composting
Advanced Water Treatment



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Calabasas, CA 91302
LVMWD.com

Wildfire Safety and Prevention Resources

On September 7, 2022, the District hosted an informational webinar focused on Wildfire Safety, Preparedness and Fire-Wise Landscape Design. State Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin representing the 44th Assembly District, Assistant Chief Drew Smith from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Clark Stevens, CEO with Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains provided expert presentations and tips for hardening your homes in preparation of the upcoming wildfire season. The webinar was well attended with excellent discussion and questions fielded by our expert panelists. View the webinar recording, download a PDF of the slide presentation at www.LVMWD.com/FireSafety



Across the State, Water Providers Find Ways to Save

As part of the Association of California Water Agencies, LVMWD gets to see how our partners throughout the state, from urban to rural agricultural area, are adapting to this historic drought. This month LVMWD is happy to share the success Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) CropSWAP Program, a Water Saving Win for Agriculture and Water Conservation in Southwest Riverside County, showing the universal benefits of water conservation.

Rancho Water has converted more than 160 acres of crops from high water-intensive plants to lower water using and climate-appropriate crops through a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources for implementation of the District's CropSWAP Program.

Program Overview

Advancing the dual goals of water use efficiency and supporting the rich agricultural legacy of the Temecula Valley region are priorities for Rancho Water, and the District's CropSWAP program has achieved great success as a result. Rancho Water's CropSWAP program provides financial assistance to the District's agricultural and ag/residential customers for crop conversion projects that are at least two acres in size and save at least one acre-foot of water per acre per year. Crop conversion projects save water by replacing higher water use crops with lower water using varieties. Any crop conversion project is eligible for participation in the program if it saves water. Examples of past CropSWAP projects that have been funded include conversions of avocado to wine grapes, avocado to citrus, avocado to olive, and conversions from citrus to other low-water-use crops such as cut flowers. These projects have received anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per acre, depending on their water savings.

The CropSWAP program aims to conserve water, keep water rates low for all of the District's customers, and help sustain the local agricultural economy. To date, Rancho Water has 100 property owners who have submitted participation applications, and approximately 40 owners who have committed to participate. Among those, 30 projects have been completed for at least one year, totaling 160 acres. Water savings for the completed projects are projected to be approximately 520 acre-feet-per year or 5,200 acre-feet over the ten-year life of the project. 1.54 million dollars in incentives have been provided to date.

The success of the program benefits the entire community by helping to sustain local agriculture and is a great example of how agricultural customers are doing their part to reduce water use and focus on long-term sustainability. As part of a larger regional effort, Rancho Water will be working with other Southern California water providers to develop similar programs. By assisting other agencies, the entire region will benefit by decreasing overall water use and reducing reliance on more expensive imported water supplies. Rancho Water is looking forward to continuing to expand this great program that has truly been a win-win for water use efficiency and agriculture in the region.