

# THE CURRENT FLOW

Spring 2023



NEWS FOR THE VALUED CUSTOMERS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



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## LVMWD Scales Back Watering Restrictions

**Due to improved hydrological conditions and customer conservation efforts**

The LVMWD Board voted unanimously to scale back watering restrictions at its meeting on Feb. 7 due to improved hydrologic conditions and increased water allocation from the State.

The California Department of Water Resources increased its State Water Project (SWP) allocation from 5% to 35% due to the atmospheric rivers that have pummeled the state so far this winter. SWP reservoirs have filled up significantly, the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains is deep, and La Niña conditions are fading – together providing a much-needed break from the historic drought emergency.

As a result of the improvement in water supply, LVMWD has moved back to Stage 2 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). The District has been in Stage 3 for a little over a year. Under Stage 3, the district-wide target for reduction in water use was 35%, which was achieved by customers.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California removed its drought emergency restrictions for SWP-dependent area agencies like LVMWD, including the one-day-per-week irrigation limit on March 15, 2023. LVMWD customers are expected to use water efficiently and stay within their water budgets.

“Unpredictable weather patterns are causing uncertainty when forecasting temperature and wet weather patterns,” said Jay Lewitt, LVMWD Board President. “We continue to suggest that you transform your thirsty lawns into natural native landscapes. Our community has done

a tremendous job throughout this drought and the key continues to be using less water.”

At Stage 2 of the WSCP, customers are asked to continue their incredible job of conserving by using water efficiently for outdoor irrigation. LVMWD customers have averaged a 40% overall decrease in water usage over the past six months, compared to the same time period in 2020. This level of conservation was historic and effective in preventing the need for an altogether ban on outdoor watering. Current hydrologic conditions warrant a softening of the measures in place to achieve those reductions.

Under Stage 2, the new District-wide target for reduction in water use, as compared to 2020, is 20%. This does not mean that each customer needs to reduce their individual water use by 20%. The amount of reduction from each customer depends on how water-efficient they were in 2020. Customers who were already highly efficient with water use may not need to reduce at all, but customers who exceeded their water budgets and used excessive amounts of water will need to reduce even more. Generally speaking, if a customer stays within their water budget, they are going to be doing their part to help the District achieve the 20% reduction target for 2023.

Drought factors will no longer be applied to customers' water budgets under Stage 2, which means the budgeted amounts will increase to the levels prior to the drought emergency. Also, the District has paused installation of flow restriction devices, but will be using

# Scaled Back Restrictions (cont. from page 1)

ing them in the near future for customers who repeatedly and egregiously exceed their water budgets by a considerable amount.

Since 70% of all residential water usage is for outdoor irrigation, this continues to be the best area of focus for reducing water consumption. Customers have the opportunity to reimagine what is aesthetically pleasing for their homes, as non-functional turf grass is becoming a thing of the past in Southern California. Climate appropriate landscaping provides beauty, a home for pollinators, and significantly minimizes residential water usage.

LVMWD customers are encouraged to create a free WaterSmart account to track their water usage in near real time. This service allows customers to better manage their water usage and take more “agency” or responsibility when deciding how and when to use water.

“Our customers have done a tremendous job of adjusting their water usage over the past year and a half to respond to the drought emergency,” said David Pedersen, General Manager for LVMWD. “We are forever grateful and thankful for the historic response of our customers. Looking ahead, it is important to recognize that the drought is not over, and we need to be prepared for an uncertain future. We ask that everyone continue to be efficient with their water usage, change their relationship with water and consider transforming their outdoor living spaces using climate appropriate landscaping.”

While wet and dry years are commonplace in California, climate change has increased the intensity and frequency of these periods, resulting in drier and hotter conditions, and longer timeframes between precipitation events.

Mother nature has given us the opportunity to collectively catch our breath. By continuing to conserve and making water use efficiency a California Way of Life, we will be better prepared for the next dry period.

## LVMWD Customers Make Conservation History in 2022

5,000

ACRE FEET of potable water conserved



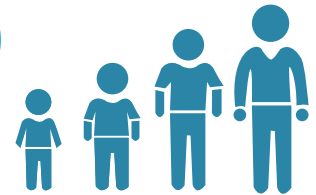
18,662

ADVANCED METERS installed



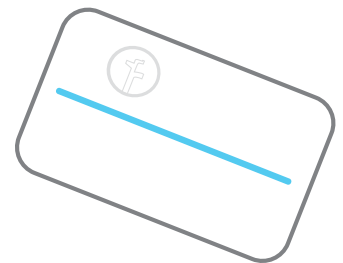
3,990

CUSTOMERS registered to WaterSmart 2022



351

RACHIO irrigation controllers installed



786,000

GALLONS provided through the Recycled Water Fill Station



# LVMWD Staffs the Future of Water

LVMWD needs professionals from vastly different career paths working together to fulfill our mission of delivering reliable and high quality water and wastewater services in a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive way. Our organization values innovation and sustainable solutions to our operational challenges across all departments.

LVMWD has career options in a variety of fields including water operations, maintenance, engineering, customer service, finance, information systems, administration, and more. The District offers a comprehensive and competitive benefits package, and when you join LVMWD, some of the benefits you can enjoy include:





- Medical, dental, & vision insurance
- Life & short/long term disability
- Retirement benefits
- Education and professional development reimbursement
- Employee wellness benefits

Visit LVMWD's Employment Page!



[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lvmwd](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lvmwd)

Be the first to know when a position is posted at LVMWD, submit a Job Interest Card now!

1. Click on the  icon in the top left corner
2. Click on  Job Descriptions in the drop down menu
3. Select the title of the position that interests you from the list
4. Click on the green  button in the top right corner
5. Enter your contact information in the form (shown to the right)
6. Click the green  button at the bottom of the form

After subscribing, if a position you are interested in is posted at LVMWD within the next 12 months, you will receive an email notification. Additionally, you will receive a reminder email when your subscription will expire.

### Job Interest Cards

Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email Address \*



Follow us to stay up to date on all the news at LVMWD on our LinkedIn page.

## Be Prepared for Disaster - Establish Emergency Water Supplies

Whether it is historic storms locally or frightening earthquakes abroad we have been recently reminded about the need to be prepared when disasters strike. Water is essential for you and your family. Find more resources on being prepared for a disaster by scanning the QR code or visiting [LVMWD.com/Prepared](http://LVMWD.com/Prepared)



Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Board of Directors

Division 1  
Charles Caspary, Director

Division 2  
Andy Coradeschi, Treasurer

Division 3  
Gary Burns, Secretary

Division 4  
Leonard E. Polan, Vice President

Division 5  
Jay Lewitt, President

MWD Representative  
Glen Peterson

General Manager  
David W. Pedersen, P. E.

District Counsel  
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP

You may direct communications to LVMWD Board members by sending an e-mail to: [board@LVMWD.com](mailto: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](http://LVMWD.com/LiveStream)

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

Check [LVMWD.com/Board-Meetings](http://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](mailto:StopTheWaste@LVMWD.com).

Rebate Information  
[LVMWD.com/Rebates](http://LVMWD.com/Rebates)

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



4232 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
[LVMWD.com](http://LVMWD.com)

# Transformational Change

For decades, climate scientists have predicted increasingly extreme weather events, both in severity and frequency. Intense storms delivering historic rain and snowfall at the end of 2022 provided a brief respite from crippling water supply shortages for State Water Project-dependent water agencies. This relief is welcome, but our region remains short on water and is still facing possible mandatory conservation requirements as the Colorado River and its key reservoirs Lake Mead (pictured), and Lake Powell continue to suffer from the impacts of a changing climate.



Ensuring long-term water reliability throughout the state is a shared responsibility between lawmakers, water agencies, and residents. The Legislature must work in partnership with water agencies to make strategic investments in infrastructure that will capture and store rainwater during deluges to better prepare us for inevitable dry spells.

Customers must position themselves as active participants in the stewardship of this shared resource by adopting conservation as a way of

life. Switching to climate appropriate landscaping is the most effective way to do this. The District provides educational programs about outdoor living space alternatives to thirsty lawns – and how they can be implemented in their own home landscapes – using the Sustainability Garden at the Pure Water Demonstration Facility as a living example.

The self-guided demonstration garden located at 4232 Las Virgenes Rd. in Calabasas is open for self-guided tours utilizing QR codes and web based content every day of the week. This amazing garden offers several examples of various climate appropriate plants, and other features to maximize the efficient use of water and to demonstrate landscaping that is beautiful, efficient, and aligned with the local ecosystem.



## Resources For Customers

[LVMWD.com/Conservation](https://www.lvmwd.com/Conservation)



### 2023 Drought FAQs

[LVMWD.com/DroughtFAQs](https://www.lvmwd.com/DroughtFAQs)

Comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions to help you understand the District's drought response.



### Virtual Landscape Classes

[LVMWD.com/VirtualLandscapeClasses](https://www.lvmwd.com/VirtualLandscapeClasses)

Learn how to transform your landscape with FREE classes presented by the Green Gardens Group.

### WaterSmart Portal

[LVMWD.com/AdvancedMeters](https://www.lvmwd.com/AdvancedMeters)

Near real-time water use data and customizable water use alerts and leak notifications.



### Discounted Irrigation Controller

[LVMWD.com/Rachio](https://www.lvmwd.com/Rachio)

Take the guess work out of your irrigation with custom settings to match current watering restrictions.



### Free Recycled Water

[LVMWD.com/RWFillStation](https://www.lvmwd.com/RWFillStation)

Free recycled water for use in your landscape can help it make it through the hot months.



### Free Compost

[LVMWD.com/Community-Compost](https://www.lvmwd.com/Community-Compost)

Free compost helps retain moisture in your landscape and delivers critical nutrients to plants.