

# THE CURRENT FLOW

Fall 2023



NEWS FOR THE VALUED CUSTOMERS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



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## LVMWD Conservation Programs Expand

**Helping our customers find the right program to improve their water use efficiency**

For decades, climate scientists have predicted increasingly extreme weather events, both in severity and frequency. In 2022, these predictions came to fruition. California faced a third year of severe drought and water supplies were stretched to historically low levels, prompting the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to impose never-seen-before outdoor watering restrictions on several water agencies including Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) – a State Water Project dependent agency within MWD's service area.

As a result of these conditions, the District deepened its existing commitment to developing a more diverse water supply portfolio of sustainable, drought resilient water sources to prepare for future drought conditions. For LVMWD, a large part of developing sustainable and diverse water supplies is in the ability to lower demand on imported water through conservation. Up to 70% of water usage throughout the LVMWD service area is used for outdoor irrigation needs – typically residential landscapes. Implementing efficient best practices around outdoor landscapes will function to soften the impact of water usage reductions in the future. As an example, when the mandated one-day per week watering restrictions were instituted in the latter part of 2022, LVMWD customers responded by achieving an amazing 37% reduction in water use compared to the same period in 2020.

Customers made sacrifices to comply with the outdoor watering restrictions. LVMWD has reciprocated that effort by establishing a new relationship with customers that prioritized solutions through collaboration. As Californians embrace conservation as a California way of life, a focus

is placed on education – specifically on how best to maximize outdoor water use efficiency. Along with education comes the necessary tools or programs to promote successful long term solutions that encourage using water wisely.

In order to successfully support this partnership, LVMWD began canvassing their customers in March 2023 with an outdoor water conservation-specific survey. The District wanted to determine what obstacles or concerns existed for customers who are considering landscape transformation projects to better understand any gaps, reservations, and motivations. Staff analyzed the responses and based on those results, created educational and incentive programs that would be most impactful to customers.

The District now offers an in-person Sustainable Landscape Workshop series twice per year in the spring and fall. The workshops aim to provide property owners with the knowledge and resources required to take on a landscape transformation project and maintain a sustainable, climate-appropriate garden. This series pulls in industry experts and covers topics including garden design, fire-wise landscaping, native garden maintenance, and how to apply for landscape transformation funding.

The survey also highlighted the desire to have virtual workshops as an option if attending in-person was a concern. LVMWD Resource Conservation Manager Craig Jones explained, "offering both in-person and virtual learning options is necessary to reach the widest variety of customers. We want to provide education to our customers and meet them where they are. Virtual options are

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# Water Warriors Answer the Call

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's (LVMWD) resource conservation team is thrilled to have completed the first round of the Water Warriors Customer Appreciation Program for water savers and sustainable landscapers.

"It's a small gesture of our appreciation to honor a portion of those customers who have gone above and beyond to make permanent changes to their landscape or just be more water efficient inside and outside of their homes," said Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager.

The program ran for three months from July to September. Customers had the chance to win in two categories: The Water-Conscious Individual Stewardship and Excellence (WISE) Award and the Greenovation Landscape Transformation Award.

Recipients of the WISE Award were recognized for their exceptional efforts in saving water during the 2022 drought and staying under their water budget even after drought restrictions were lifted. District staff chose winners based on data from the new advanced water meters.

Greenovation Award recipients are acknowledged for transforming their landscape to align with climate-friendly and water-conscious principles, like planting native and drought-tolerant plants. Winners in this category took advantage of the Metropolitan Water District's Turf Replacement Program, which provides a rebate of \$2.00 per square foot up to 5,000 square feet of converted yard.



## WISE Award Winners:

Earl Duryea, Westlake Village  
Kuang-Tsan Chiang, Agoura Hills  
Jeff White, Calabasas  
Lawrence Szabo, Calabasas  
Jordan Blake, Calabasas  
Travers Hill, Agoura Hills

## July 2023 Greenovation Award Winners:

Lawrence Miller, Agoura Hills  
Howard Schwartz, Calabasas  
Lezlee Hogan, Westlake Village  
Kenneth Dougherty, Agoura Hills  
Peggy Joslyn, Calabasas  
Dana Story, Agoura Hills  
Angela Wilson, Malibu

During the recent drought, customer efforts made conservation history, reducing water use by 20% on average. These awards are a way for the District to appreciate all that our customers do to further our community's efforts for a sustainable, water-conscious lifestyle.

Moving forward, the District encourages community members to use water efficiently while recommending new avenues for water saving, like drought-tolerant landscaping. The District also offers support to advance this initiative by providing additional Landscape Transformation Incentive programs and Fall Educational Landscape Workshop Series that kicked-off in September.

More information on the Water Warriors Customer Appreciation Program can be found by scanning the QR code or visiting [LVMWD.com/Conservation](https://www.lvmwd.com/Conservation).



# Pure Water Project Progress

## Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority shortlists three design-build firms and requests proposals.

The Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) has reached the second stage of the procurement process for construction of a new Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) and Reverse Osmosis Concentrate (ROC) Pipeline. Following the release of a Request for Qualifications for interested design-build firms in April, the JPA began procurement by comparing qualifications of the prospective teams relative to the needs of the Project and established a shortlist of the most qualified firms. The JPA's nine-member selection committee reviewed Statements of Qualifications received from seven firms and announced the top three. Those three firms were recently invited to submit a proposal, and it is expected that an award will be made in February 2024 at which time design efforts will commence. Construction of the estimated \$364 million Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo is scheduled to start in late 2025 and will be operational prior to the 2030 regulatory deadline. The advanced treatment of reclaimed wastewater to drinking water standards will eventually supply up to 30% of drinking water for Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Water and Sanitation District customers.



A rendering of the proposed AWPF on Agoura Road.

Scan the QR code or visit **OurPureH2O.com** for more information.



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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)

## Time Change - Change Your Timer



Fall is in the air so it's time to make sure your irrigation isn't using too much water for the shorter, cooler days. Now is the perfect time to tune your irrigation for maximum efficiency and minimum waste. A key to reducing waste is by installing a weather based irrigation controller that takes the guessing out of seasonal schedule changes. LVMWD is offering our customers a discounted Rachio controller with FREE professional installation. Scan the QR code or go to **LVMWD.com/Rachio**



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essential to accomplishing that.” LVMWD partners with MWD and the Green Garden Group (G3) to offer customers free online instructions on all aspects of sustainable landscape design with a rotating schedule.

Once customers are aware of mechanisms they can implement to improve water use efficiency, the District provides a variety of services to help apply that knowledge. Through the District’s partnership with MWD, customers can apply for a free in-person survey of their landscape by certified irrigation professionals to determine where water saving opportunities are.

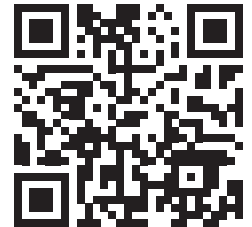
Additional incentive programs provide further tools for customers and a menu of options and ways to engage with LVMWD. “Providing a multitude of programs, rebates and incentives around water efficiency helps us to build partnerships through long-term investments that are critical for us to bolster water supplies – the water we conserve today,” Jones explained.

This multi-level approach is headlined by the Landscape Transformation Program, which focuses on the removal of turf grass and replacement with native and drought tolerant alternatives. These projects are larger in scope and cost, requiring a more complex approach but also offer cost sharing options starting at two dollars per square foot of grass replaced. This level of commitment may be more than some customers are willing to make but are still looking to improve their water use habits.

The discounted RACHIO smart irrigation controller with professional installation, or the discounted rain barrel that customers can obtain by filling out an online form to receive a voucher in the mail, provide opportunities to partner with LVMWD. “Our goal is to encourage customers to participate in one or more of our programs, because once they experience the turnkey approach to the RACHIO controller program as an example, working through the turf transformation process with us to transform their lawn into a native, climate-appropriate garden isn’t as intimidating.”

Much like a native garden, these programs will grow and evolve over time. LVMWD is looking at piloting a variety of programs to offer irrigation system retrofits, cistern installation support, and landscape design assistance. The newly forged partnership seems to be working, Jones reports, as LVMWD customers have continued to use less water from 2020 and take advantage of the tools LVMWD offers to maximize water savings.

More information on LVMWD programs and educational opportunities can be found by scanning the QR code or visiting [LVMWD.com/Conservation](http://LVMWD.com/Conservation)



**PURE WATER PROJECT LAS VIRGENES-TRIUNFO:**  
**FULL CIRCLE PODCAST**

[OurPureH2O.com/FullCirclePod](http://OurPureH2O.com/FullCirclePod)

As water challenges arise locally, across California and the entire Western United States, LVMWD and the Las Virgenes - Triunfo JPA are focused on the critical mission of ensuring a safe and reliable water supply, healthy communities and a sustainable planet.

Listen to the Full Circle Podcast where we dig deep into how the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes - Triunfo is meeting those challenges and changing our water future.

