

the current FLOW

10 PERCENT REDUCTION



Issue #1 ~ 2008

News for customers of
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

818.251.2100
www.LVMWD.com

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN USE NEEDED NOW

LVMWD customers are requested to reduce their water use by 10 percent as compared to last year's consumption. Water agencies across southern California and in many other parts of the state are asking their customers for similar levels of conservation.

"We're hoping to avoid mandatory rationing this year," said John R. Mundy, LVMWD's general manager. "It will take a determined conservation effort by every

customer to help the District reach that goal. In addition, we'll need some favorable events to occur."

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Following a court order, the pumping of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has been reduced. The overall reduction could be as much as 30 percent to protect the Delta Smelt and other threatened species found in that watershed. While water managers are hoping for abundant rain and snow in the

Sierras, the ability to move the water south is curtailed. As one observer put it, "It's like trying to breathe through a straw." LVMWD is entirely dependent upon water transported through the State Water Project.

**"WE'RE HOPING TO
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RAIN AND SNOW

State water managers were pleased to see the early winter storms that brought rain and snow to much of the state. At the time this story was written, it remained unclear as to how much more precipitation would fall or if it would begin to approach a "normal" year; dependable figures will not be available until April. A large amount of water is needed to provide the day-to-day supply for the state and even more is required to help replenish reservoirs that have been drawn down over the last two years.

(continued inside)

Raining? Turn off those sprinklers.

These easy-to-use reminders will be included with your bi-monthly statement. You can cut and place on the refrigerator and on the door to your garage (close to the irrigation controller). If you'd like larger reminders, you can download them from our website, www.LVMWD.com and click on *Conservation*.

When a storm is expected, use the signs to remind yourself and other family members to set your irrigation timer to "rain" which deactivates the watering program. Turning off the sprinklers when it rains is the *easiest* way to conserve water!💧



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- ✓ Perennials with Spring Blooms
 - ✓ WaterSense Faucets
 - ✓ Compare Water Usage

(continued from front)

START SAVING TODAY

No one likes water “quotas” or rationing. By taking simple actions, it’s easy for most customers to achieve a 10 percent reduction. At this time of year, set your irrigation system to water only one day per week. Refrain from using the hose to wash down driveways and sidewalks. Turn off the water when shaving or brushing teeth. Take shorter showers. Only wash full loads of laundry or dishes. Install new water-saving sprinkler heads and a weather-based irrigation controller – both items are eligible for rebates – see www.LVMWD.com or call for details. Finally, be sure there’s no runoff from your property during or after watering. If you see it, it’s a sign that something’s wrong.

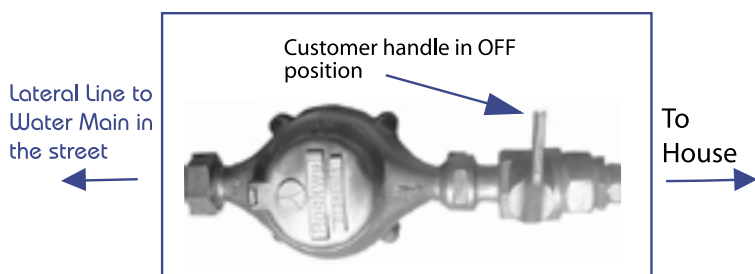
Remember, it’s easier to save water in the cool, moist weather months, and plants don’t require much water at this time of year. ♪

Whose Water Line Is It?

Where is the dividing point between LVMWD and the customer’s water system? The quick answer is: the point where the meter assembly meets water pipe on the customer side of the meter, just beyond the shut-off valve.

Beyond the meter, all water pipes and accessories (regulators, valves, etc.) are the responsibility of the customer. LVMWD is responsible for the line that runs between the water main in the street and the meter.

If you see any signs of a leak in or around the meter box that serves your property, please contact LVMWD as soon as possible at 818-251-2200. ♪



Compare Your Water Usage

Would it be helpful to know how you and your family are doing on water conservation compared to how you did last year or to other households in your neighborhood?

While there are always variables in seasonal billing cycles, in general, each household seems to have a water consumption pattern that repeats year after year.

As we look to the need to conserve more, you may find it useful to look up your water use history. LVMWD offers this as one of the services available to customers who have signed up for “eCare”, an on-line account information service.

While eCare is not an on-line bill payment service, it does allow you to view your water bill electronically, review your water consumption, request services and ask questions.

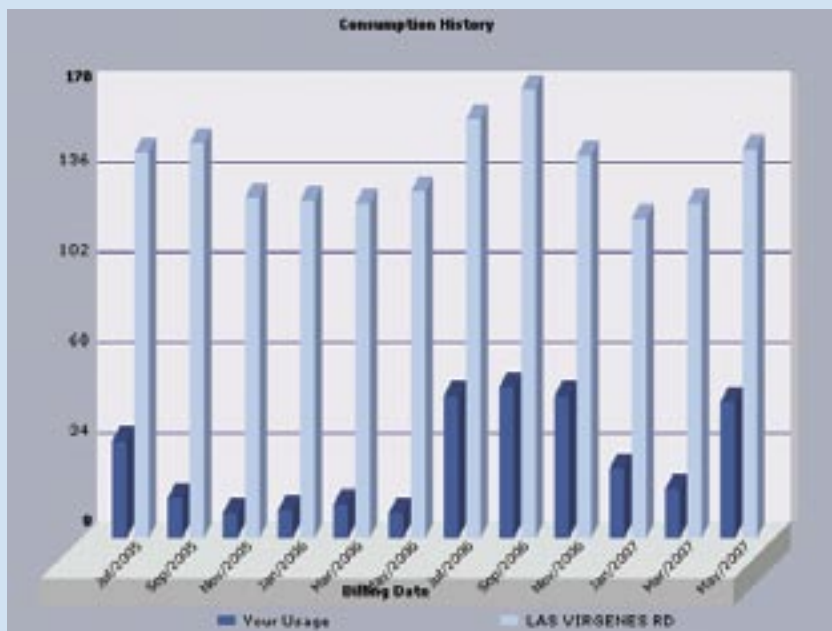
To sign-up go to www.LVMWD.com and click on the eCARE logo. ♪

Consumption Comparison

1. Service that you want to compare:

2. Compare your consumption to:

- Average usage on my Street
- Compare my consumption to the...
- Average usage on my Street
- Average usage in my Region
- Average usage for the entire City





NEW IN 2008: EPA's WATERSENSE BATHROOM FAUCETS

It's well documented that bathrooms comprise the largest use of water in the home, totaling about 50% of all indoor water use.

There's a new way to conserve by installing a new, high-performance, water-efficient sink faucet. The USEPA recently released product specifications for new models that use about 30% less water than conventional faucets. The fixtures must be tested and certified in order to carry the WaterSense Label, and cannot flow at a rate that exceeds 1.5 gallons per minute.

**AMERICANS WASTE 60 BILLION*
GALLONS OF WATER EVERY YEAR
WASHING HANDS AND BRUSHING
TEETH WITH INEFFICIENT FAUCETS.**

An added benefit is energy savings – it takes energy to treat, pump and heat water. The report states "Letting your faucet run for 5 minutes uses about as much energy as letting a 60-watt light bulb run for 14 hours."

The WaterSense label can already be found on high-efficiency toilets that use 20% less water than standard models.

For more information and a list of WaterSense labeled plumbing products, go to http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/faucets_final.htm

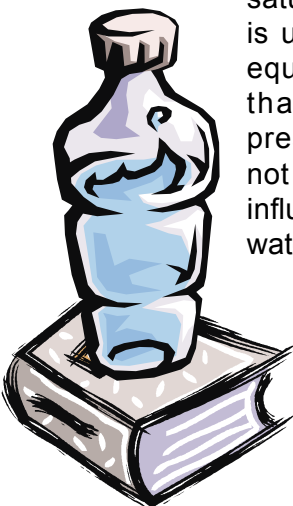
**To put that into perspective, there are one billion seconds in 32 years.*

Bottled Water Sources Defined

Confused by the language used on bottled water? The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has defined certain terms for use:

Artesian water is water from a well tapping a confined aquifer in which the water level stands at some height above the top of the aquifer.

Ground water comes from a subsurface saturated zone that is under a pressure equal to or greater than atmospheric pressure and must not be under direct influence of surface water.



Mineral water contains at least 250 parts per million dissolved solids and comes from

a geologically and physically protected underground water source. No minerals may be added.

Purified water has been produced by distillation, deionization, reverse osmosis or other suitable processes. May also be known as "deionized water", "distilled water" or "reverse osmosis water."

Spring water flows naturally from underground to the Earth's surface. The location of the spring must be identified.

Note: LVMWD provides high quality drinking water, via your tap, that is treated, processed, and delivered to you directly according to state and federal standards. LVMWD's water falls as rain or snow in the Sierras and travels through the State Water Project to your home. 💧

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Board Meetings are scheduled at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. See web site for meeting and agenda information.

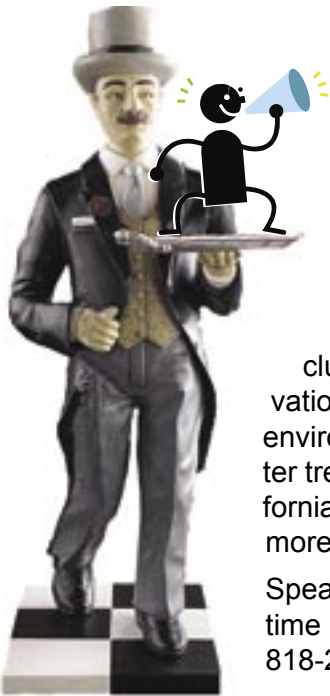
The Current Flow is published six times each year to keep customers informed of water-related information and conservation practices.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment
4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
818.251.2200
www.LVMWD.com



At Your Service... Let's Talk About Water...



LVMWD offers a free Speaker's Bureau that's available for service clubs, homeowner associations, scout troops and social clubs. We'll be glad to speak about any water-related topic including, water supply, conservation methods, protecting the environment through wastewater treatment and recycling, California Friendly gardening and more.

Speakers are available for daytime and evening meetings. Call 818-251-2200 for details. ♪



THE MISSING PIECE

Who is responsible for the water meter that measures your water use?

Send your response to:

THE MISSING PIECE, LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or visit our web site at www.LVMWD.com and send your answer through Feedback and Inquiries. Prizes awarded monthly to ten winners randomly selected from the correct responses.

Watch for the answer in the next issue of The Current Flow.

Previous issue's **MISSING PIECE**:

Which day generates the highest "peak" water use?

Thanksgiving ♪

Perennials with Spring Bloom

Here's something colorful for the perennial garden! The following plants have it all: they are water efficient, have attractive flowers in the spring, and remain or return each year. Adding any one to your garden will bring bright color and save on irrigation costs. ♪

Red Buckwheat*

Eriogonum grande rubescens

Native to the Channel Islands, this plant is compact and low growing, with gray-green leaves and dark pink blossoms that attract butterflies. 2' h x 2' w



Scarlet Larkspur#

Delphinium cardinale

Native to coastal mountains, this perennial rootstock has wide lobed leaves, erect stems and large deep red blossoms that attract butterflies. 3-5' h x 1-2' w



Beach Suncups+

Camissonia cheiranthefolia

Naturally found growing in sand dunes, a good choice for areas with good drainage. Low growing silver foliage with lemon yellow flowers. 1' h x 3' w



Coyote Mint@

Monardella villosa

Native to California, a bushy grower with gray-green leaves, purplish flower, and mint fragrance. Requires good drainage and regular trimming back to maintain shape. 1-2' h x 2' w



For more information on these waterwise plants, go to the Conservation section of our web site - www.LVMWD.com. To find a local retailer with native plants, go to BeWaterWise (<http://www.bewaterwise.com/retailers.html>).

Photo Credit: *Steve Matson; #Beatrice F. Howitt, California Academy of Sciences; +Lynn Watson; @Jeff Abbas