

splash



FALL 2007

Scheduled Water Plant Maintenance Means Extra Conservation

Water supplies will be limited
October 28–November 2

The Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) supplies about 60 percent of the water the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts serves to customers in Lancaster and Palmdale. The remainder comes from District wells and storage facilities. In October 2007, AVEK will be performing much needed upgrades and maintenance work at their Quartz Hill Water Treatment Plant which will require a complete shut-down from Sunday October 28 to Friday, November 2. This means no AVEK water will be available for delivery to our customers in Lancaster and Palmdale. Fire protection supplies will be maintained at all times.

During this time, we will be relying on groundwater and the water in our storage tanks to provide our customers. In order to ensure that we maintain water pressure in the system and have enough water for all, please:

- Water no more than 2 days between October 28 and November 2.
- Do not water between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Don't wash your car or use any unnecessary water outdoors.
- Check your system. Don't water the sidewalk or street.
- Fix leaks or shut off the water during this period.

CONGRATULATIONS ON CONSERVING

District 40 Customers Save 10%

Since June 2007, when the hot weather began and news about our record-setting dry year and the need to conserve water first began to surface, Los Angeles County Waterworks District customers have done an excellent job of reducing their water use. The Districts temporarily suspended construction meter water during the hottest periods, and Antelope Valley residents and businesses achieved a reduction of almost 10 percent over last year's water use!

It is important to make saving water and using it responsibly part of our every day routine, and Antelope Valley residents have shown that doing simple things like checking sprinklers, fixing leaks and planting native plants can go a long way toward eliminating water waste. We can't count on rain this winter, so please continue to Make Every Drop Count!



Residents talk with Waterworks District representatives and learn about water conservation at this year's Antelope Valley Fair. They went home with lots of tips and free water-saving devices so they can make every drop count!

California Natives: Smart and Good-Looking

Landscaping your yard and garden with California native plants is a smart alternative for residents who want to have a beautiful garden and save water and money. These plants—such as red and white yucca, buckwheat, various sages, deer grass, junipers, and penstemons—are already growing in their native environment and are adapted to local weather and soil conditions. Using native or drought-tolerant plants not only saves water, but saves you maintenance time and produces a habitat for native birds, beneficial insects and wildlife.

And with today's emphasis on water conservation and environmental protection, attitudes toward having a large, traditional lawn are changing. The trend is to eliminate lawns or reduce their size. Many residents have removed the lawn from their front yard which were used primarily for decoration, and kept a smaller lawn in the back yard. Replacing lawn with other types of landscaping is a great opportunity to try out native and drought-tolerant plants.



Photo courtesy of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

According to the Theodore Payne Foundation, Fall is the best time of year to plant most natives, especially such water sensitive plants as woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), wild lilac (*Ceanothus* species), and flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* species), and to sow native wildflower seeds like poppies. For plants, make sure you dig a good hole, fill it with water, let it drain, place the plant with care, backfill with good soil, and

water again. For seeds, rough up the soil surface, sow your seeds, and water. You don't need to add any cover soil; the seeds will do just fine.

Many native plants require more water than usual in the first year to get established, but once they do they need very little maintenance. For more information and great landscaping ideas, visit the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District Nursery at 10148 West Avenue I or The Home Depot at 44226 20th St West in Lancaster. Or visit <http://www.theodorepayne.org/> or <http://www.bewaterwise.com/> for more information and planting tips. And remember, California natives are economical, environmentally-friendly, and make for a good-looking garden.

Let Us Know

Fixing a leaky faucet, pipe or sprinkler can easily save 600 gallons of precious water from going down the drain each month. Remember to check weekly and adjust your sprinklers (water pressure alone can force your sprinklers out of alignment). Many times, sprinklers are set to go on when we're away from home or asleep. If you see that a neighbor may have a leak, let them know—they'll probably thank you for it.

To report a leak you've seen elsewhere, call (661)942-1157 and provide an address or general location so our Waterworks crews can follow up.

TIP:
Don't forget a 25¢ washer to fix leaks and save 600 gallons each month.

FIX LEAKY FAUCETS

Visit www.lacwaterworks.org to see more water saving tips and learn about how the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts are working toward long term solutions to drought and water shortages in the Antelope Valley.



Mission: "To provide reliable, high-quality water and service at a reasonable cost to all of our customers."

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
Phone: (626) 300-3362
Email: mbarrett@dpw.lacounty.gov

www.lacwaterworks.org