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SUMMER 2007

No Drips in Antelope Valley: An Ounce of Prevention Saves a Ton of Water

LA County Waterworks Launched New Education Program at Water Conservation Event

Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 unveiled a new public education program aimed at leaking faucets and wayward sprinklers in an effort to reduce water usage in the Antelope Valley at an event at The Home Depot in Lancaster on June 21, the first day of summer. Leaking faucets and sprinklers pointed at sidewalks instead of lawns are among the leading causes of wasted water.

his dedication to water conservation issues. In addition, outdoor water conservation tips and the benefits of native plants were highlighted and The Home Depot showcased a new native plant section in the store's garden center.

Southern California has experienced its driest year since record-keeping began in 1872. The lack of rainfall has hindered the time-honored blooming of California poppies and, of greater consequence, increased the risk of brush fires.



Crystal Morales from the Boys and Girls Club presents Supervisor Antonovich's Field Deputy Norm Hickling a plaque for dedication to water issues.

The water conservation event brought together water conservation experts as well as members of the community including the Boys and Girls Club of the Antelope Valley who presented Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich with a plaque for

“Water is vital to all aspects of our quality of life here in the Valley and we have a responsibility to make every drop count,” said Supervisor Antonovich. “LA County Waterworks has been instrumental in helping to educate residents that they can save water and money through simple conservation practices.”

One simple conservation practice, planting native plants, was particularly on display. Utilizing California native plants is a smart alternative for Antelope Valley residents who want to have a beautiful garden and save water and money. These plants—such as juniper, yuccas, and sages—are already growing in their native environment and are used to the drier conditions.

As the demand for water increases in the hotter months, there are efficient ways to water thirsty lawns and gardens, as well as many techniques to conserve water at home—every drop counts!

FREE Water-Use Surveys

Save Water and Money

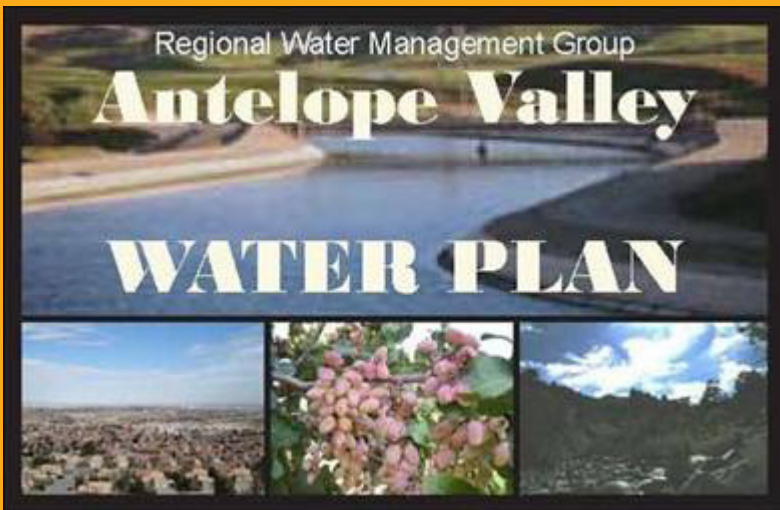
Residents can request a water-use survey and a District representative will visit the home to identify areas where water is being wasted, provide a customized outdoor watering schedule and evaluate what each household can do to save water and bring water bills down. Additionally, free water saving devices will be provided and installed. These surveys help people find sources of waste they never knew existed in their own homes and help the Districts save much needed water.

Call or e-mail today to
schedule a

FREE WATER AUDIT!
(888) 987-9473

conserve@waterwise-consulting.com





Antelope Valley Water Plan Makes Public Debut

Plan is being presented to public, feedback sought.

After a year of collaborative effort by the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), the draft Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Water Plan) was presented to the public on July 10 in Palmdale and July 18 in Rosamond which gave Valley residents an overview of Water Plan contents, answered questions, distributed copies of the document, and provided a forum for comments. Comments are being accepted until August 1.

The Water Plan describes long-range goals including increasing water supply, improving water quality, protecting the environment, increasing open space and habitat, enhancing flood control, and encouraging land use planning for growth that supports the values of the region. The Water Plan also provides a roadmap for achieving these goals and specific projects that will help the Valley overcome the gap between expected water demand and water supply between now and 2035.

You can see the Water Plan at www.AVWaterPlan.org, stop by the District 40 office to pick up a copy or call (626) 300-4693.

Winning Water Saving Tip

Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers and minimize the use of water and fertilizer!

Christina Steibel from Acton is the winner of the 2007 Water Conservation Contest. She and other winners will receive an outdoor conservation kit that includes a spray nozzle, water timer, rain gauge, moisture meter and more. Congratulations Christina!

Other winners include:

Floyd Albano, Lancaster; Mark Bratton, Lancaster; Jack Hormozi, Palmdale; Mike Harrison, Palmdale; Jean C. Holden, Lancaster; Robert Chan, Palmdale; Jerusalem Shalom Israel, Valyermo; Consuelo Ocampo, Littlerock; Paula Easley, Palmdale; Robert and JoAnn Albrect, Palmdale; Frank Larango, Palmdale; Betty J. Anderson, San Bernardino; Lizette Tellez, Palmdale; Rosy Coldwell Banker, Palmdale; Tony Gandola, Lancaster; Maria Valdez, Lancaster; Dori Petersen, Palmdale; Albert Miller Jr., Palmdale; Lawrence Frazier, Lancaster; Elaine Kilroy, Lancaster; Richard Mills, Lancaster; Jose and Melissa Rodriguez, Lancaster; and Deb Cameron, Palmdale; Ann Sutherland, Palmdale; and Aida Arellano, Lancaster.



10 TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND WATER

With the driest season on record, water conservation should be high priority this summer for all residents. With so little rain, every drop counts!

Here are 10 easy and effective ways to save water at home and in the garden:

- 1 **Adjust your sprinklers.** Up to 70 percent of residential water use goes to maintaining our yards. Try taking a minute or two off the timer.
- 2 **Check your system.** Do a weekly check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and replace them right away. Make sure you are watering your yard and not the driveway or sidewalk.
- 3 **Fix those leaks.** Just a drip can waste more than 10,000 gallons per month. A leaking flapper on a toilet also increases flows at the water treatment plant.
- 4 **Plant native species or drought-tolerant plants.** Many of the lawns and plants we use are not intended for the unique climate in Southern California. Visit the Lancaster Home Depot or the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District nursery for native plants suited for the valley.
- 5 **Use a broom instead of a hose.** Sweeping up rather than hosing off leaves or grass clippings not only saves water, it reduces runoff.
- 6 **Get an adjustable hose nozzle for outdoor use.** That way you can adjust the spray to meet your needs. A hose running for five minutes uses the same amount of water as a 20-minute shower.
- 7 **Eliminate runoff.** Runoff could mean your lawn needs aeration. When you aerate your lawn, you give the water somewhere to go besides down the storm drain.
- 8 **Take shorter showers.** Cutting two minutes off your shower time can save 600 gallons a month for a family of four. If you change the showerhead to a water efficient model, you could save even more.
- 9 **Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.**
- 10 **Wash only full loads of laundry.** Waiting until you have a full load can save you up to 20 gallons for the same amount of clean clothes.





“Three Easy Ways” Advertising Campaign

The District’s new water conservation education campaign aims to reduce indoor and outdoor water consumption through awareness. Look for our new campaign featuring “Three Easy Ways” to reduce water wastage in your local newspaper.

“Now that it’s summer, saving water should be on every resident’s mind,” says Melinda Barrett, Water Conservation Program Manager with the Districts. “Unknowingly, people can waste hundreds of gallons a day in their outdoor water usage. These are simple things everyone can do in their own homes to save water and money.”

Be Prepared

Water has been a hot topic this year. You may have seen or heard news about the low amount of rainfall or low snowpack levels in the Sierras, and the State Water Project (SWP) having to turn off its pumps in the Sacramento Delta to protect the endangered Delta Smelt fish.

As you may know, Waterworks District No. 40 gets up to 70 percent of its water from the SWP, so a reduction in SWP deliveries affects the water delivered to you. District No. 40, in collaboration with many agencies in the Valley, is working diligently to improve water supply reliability through various initiatives such as banking SWP water in the Antelope Valley groundwater basin during the winter for use in the summer, building a recycled water pipeline to deliver tertiary-treated wastewater for irrigation, and implementing an effective water conservation program. These initiatives will substantially improve the Valley’s water supply reliability in the near future.

Each of us can do our part to conserve our precious water supplies, particularly during high demand periods. No one can predict when or how much it will rain next year or the year after. If we have several years of drought, supply from the SWP will be drastically reduced and the District may be forced to implement mandatory water conservation for all its customers. We urge you to conserve water and get into the habit of using water responsibly. Please visit our website LACWaterworks.org for tips to help you conserve.

Limited water resources isn’t a new story in Southern California. Please do your part to conserve water now so that we will be better prepared to weather any future shortages or extended droughts.

Mission: “To provide reliable, high-quality water 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