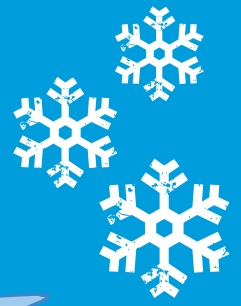


# splash



WINTER 2010

## Aim High for Higher Quality Water

### Districts and AVEK Partner to Meet New EPA Water Standards

The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, and No. 37, Acton (Districts), are working with the Antelope Valley East-Kern Water Agency (AVEK) to comply with upcoming changes in drinking water quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These changes will further improve your already high-quality drinking water.



The EPA recently updated rules associated with disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which are harmful chemicals formed in water during the treatment process, such as total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). Public drinking water providers all over the country are evaluating and modifying their facilities in response to the EPA's latest updates. To ensure customers are aware of the new regulations, the Districts hosted a series of community meetings in January 2009 to evaluate the implementation and

use of available disinfection options. Due to overwhelming preference for the use of granular activated carbon (GAC), additional community meetings were held in December 2009 to discuss the impacts of using GAC. The meetings included an overview of the needed facilities, changes in operation and maintenance, and the water rate modification to support the conversion. GAC will both reduce the levels of DBPs in your drinking water by allowing carbon granules to absorb contaminants before they form DBPs and may also remove taste- and odor-causing compounds.

The implementation of GAC treatment would require major capital improvements to AVEK's existing facilities including GAC vessels, civil site work to allow access for truck loading/unloading, washing and washwater recovery facilities, and new pump stations. Using GAC also will significantly increase operations and maintenance costs. The estimated capital improvement cost of GAC facilities and their annual operation and maintenance cost are approximately \$70 million and \$18 million, respectively. To pay for these increased costs, the estimated bimonthly rate increase in District No. 37 is 46 percent and 51 percent in District No. 40. This would result in an increase in current average bimonthly water bills from \$116 to \$169 in District No. 37 and from \$75 to \$113 in District No. 40.

The Districts will conduct a survey to verify customers' preferred method of treatment and will report the customers' preference to AVEK for their use in determining which treatment method will be implemented. The new treatment process must be implemented by 2012 in the Antelope Valley and by 2014 in Acton. Please visit the News & Features section on [lacwaterworks.org](http://lacwaterworks.org) to learn more about GAC and to view meeting notes.

## 2010 State Water Project Allocation at Historically Low Levels

### Conservation a Must

Districts customers reduced water use by seven percent in 2009 and we need your help to continue conservation efforts in 2010. We thank you for taking part in water conservation efforts and taking advantage of our water conservation rebate programs and onsite surveys.

On December 1, 2009 the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that State Water Project (SWP) contractors will receive only **five percent** of their contracted SWP water for 2010. The 2010 allocation is the lowest in California history since the SWP began delivering water in 1967. The SWP provides water to more than 25 million California residents and over 750,000 acres of farmland.

*Cont. on back page*



# Conserve and Prepare for Another Hot, Dry Summer

## Easy Winter Conservation Steps Could Save You Money

Water conservation in colder months allows the Districts to help ensure a sufficient water supply year-round. Especially during drought conditions, winter is a good time to tackle all of the water saving projects you've put off throughout the year. Make sure you are not overwatering—our winter weather can vary week to week, so make sure your sprinklers are set properly.

**FIX LEAKS** A leaky pipe or faucet can waste more than 10,000 gallons per month. A 25¢ washer can fix those leaks and save your home a lot of water and money. Don't forget to insulate exposed pipes to reduce the chances of leaks resulting from splitting frozen pipes. *See photos below.*

**UPDATE YOUR APPLIANCES** Take advantage of the Districts' rebate program for water saving devices. Switching to low water use appliances can save thousands of gallons of water each month and put up to \$150 in your pocket.

**PLAN YOUR SPRING GARDEN** It's never too early to plan your spring garden. Visit your local nursery or garden center to research native and drought-tolerant plants. Some natives can be planted year round. You'll save 750 gallons of water per month.

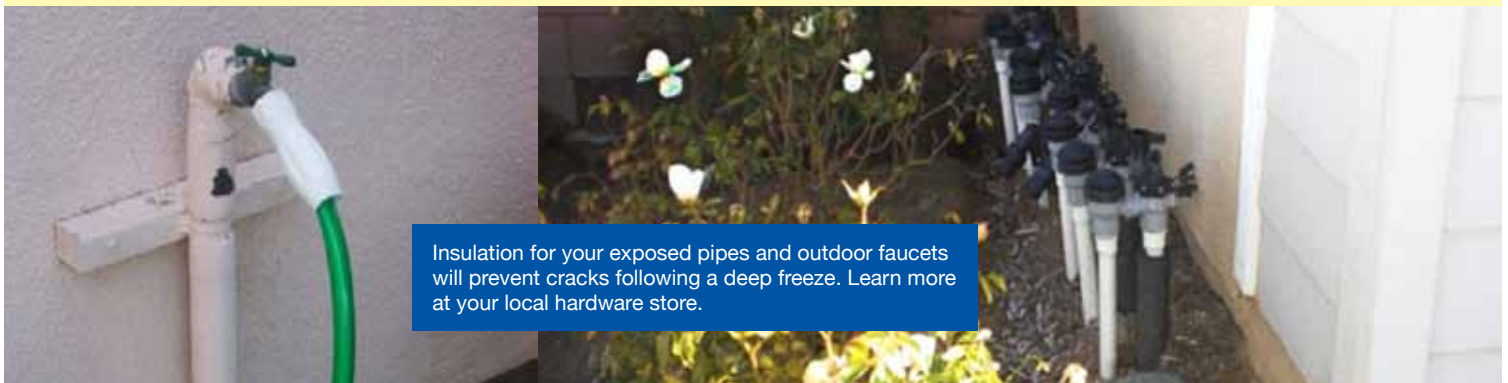
**ADJUST SPRINKLERS** It may sound like a simple task, but a broken sprinkler or one aimed at the sidewalk instead of your lawn can waste more than 500 gallons per month. Check your sprinklers on a weekly basis.

Districts customers are eligible for rebates up to \$150 on the latest water-saving items:

- Rotating sprinkler nozzles
- Smart sprinkler controllers
- High-efficiency clothes washers
- High-efficiency & dual flush toilets
- Synthetic turf
- Waterless urinals



Apply online  
at [lacwaterworks.org](http://lacwaterworks.org)



Insulation for your exposed pipes and outdoor faucets will prevent cracks following a deep freeze. Learn more at your local hardware store.

*Cont. from: "2010 State Water..."*

The initial allocation figure is the result of low carryover storage levels in the state's major reservoirs, ongoing drought conditions, and federally mandated environmental restrictions on water deliveries from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect endangered fish species.

DWR will continue to monitor water supply conditions and drought impacts to identify necessary supplemental response actions this year. In addition, DWR will aggressively plan for a potentially dry 2010 in coordination with other state, federal and local agencies and the water community.

We urge Districts customers to proactively conserve water every day in order to save water and prepare for the reduced water supply. Simple steps like fixing sprinklers, watering in the late evening and early morning, fixing leaks and using native plants can save hundreds of gallons per month.

Visit [lacwaterworks.org](http://lacwaterworks.org) for useful water saving tips or to sign up for a free in-home water use evaluation.

### Let Us Know

To report water leaks or nuisance water running into the street, call **1 (800) 675-HELP**. Please provide an address for our Districts crews to investigate.



County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460  
Phone: (626) 300-3362  
Email: [vmfowler@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:vmfowler@dpw.lacounty.gov)  
[www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org)

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