Vallecitos reminds customers: Water Conservation. IT’S FOR LIFE.

On July 6, 2016, the Vallecitos Water District’s Board of Directors voted to rescind the mandatory drought restrictions under its “Level 2 Drought Alert” and move to voluntary conservation measures under its “Level 1 Drought Watch,” thereby ending restrictions on outdoor watering. Vallecitos customers may now irrigate any day of the week with no limit on the number of watering days. However, the Board expressed their desire to sustain water conservation as a permanent way of life and adopted a new ordinance, in agreement with State of California SB 814, permanently prohibiting the following wasteful practices:

- A customer shall not allow water to leave the customer’s property by drainage onto adjacent properties or public or private roadways or streets or gutters due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks.

- The application of potable water to outdoor landscaping during and after 48 hours of a measurable rain event.

- Washing any paved area (sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, etc.) is only allowed to alleviate immediate safety or sanitation hazards. To relieve hazards, only a power washer or a hose with a shutoff nozzle may be used.

- Customers shall repair or stop all water leaks upon discovery or within 48 hours of notification by Vallecitos Water District.

- Vehicle washing shall only be done in a commercial car wash or by using a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle or hand held container.

- A customer shall not continuously fill swimming pools and spas that are draining due to uncorrected leaks.

- A customer shall not use non-recirculating ornamental fountains or cascading fountains.

- The use of potable water for irrigation of ornamental turf within the public street rights of ways, including adjacent landscape strips.

- Restaurants and other food establishments shall only serve and refill water upon request.

- Guests in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments shall be provided the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.

- Most irrigation must occur before 10:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.

Please check the District’s website at www.vwd.org/drought for complete drought information.
On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, the Vallecitos Board of Directors did not approve the proposed rate increases. Instead the Board voted to keep the current rate structure and to limit water rate increases to half of the current increase in wholesale water rates to be effective January 1, 2017. There will be no change to the ready-to-serve charge, pumping charge or the sewer service charge. The wholesale water rate pass through will equate to a $0.46 cent per unit increase ($5.52 for the average single family user per month). The average single family user is defined as a 5/8 inch water meter customer using 12 units of water per month. One unit of water is 748 gallons.

A Notice of Public Hearing was mailed to all account holders of the Vallecitos Water District in accordance with Proposition 218 notice requirements. The notice advised District customers of the Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, and of proposed changes to the water rate structure, water commodity rates, ready-to-serve and sewer service charges. Proposed rate changes in the 218 Notice were based on recommendations from a Cost of Service Study (COSS) prepared by consultants Black & Veatch. The Board of Directors considered written protests in response to the 218 Notice and heard public comment from interested parties.

Over the years, the Board of Directors and staff have worked diligently to reduce expenses, thereby minimizing the need for large rate increases. Starting in fiscal year 2013 and extending through 2019, employee concessions result in savings of approximately $1.3 million. Additionally, the District refinanced bonds in July 2015, saving $3.4 million over the life of the bonds. Further, the District agreed to purchase less expensive water from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District saving $201,000 since October of 2015. Finally, in the current budget, the District cut and deferred $4.1 million from the Proposed Budget.
Have you ever wondered how your drinking water is treated and delivered to your home or business, or how the water from your toilets and sinks is recycled to such high standards that it can be used for irrigation?

You can have these and more questions answered by getting a behind-the-scenes look during our FREE award winning Water Academy tour.

Our certified water and wastewater specialists offer customers a first-hand look at what it takes to operate the Vallecitos Water District and provide reliable, exceptional and sustainable water and wastewater service to the more than 97,000 residents in our service area. Participants board a chartered bus for a first-hand look at the District’s 33-million-gallon and 40-million-gallon capacity Twin Oaks Reservoirs, currently said to be the largest of their kind in the world.

The grand finale of the tour is a visit to the District’s Meadowlark Water Reclamation Facility in Carlsbad, capable of recycling up to 74% of the wastewater generated in our service area. At this facility, participants learn how microorganisms help clean the water and see how increased capacity from the recent plant upgrade benefits the community by lowering the overall demand for limited, imported water.

Next Tour: Thursday, October 20, 2016 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Space is limited. Register today at www.vwd.org/wateracademy. Customers can also register by phone at 760-744-0460 ext. 223 or email at ayerman@vwd.org.
Vallecitos Water and Sewer District
201 Vallecitos de Oro
San Marcos, CA 92069
(760) 744-0460
www.vwd.org

Splash! is a publication of information and interest to Vallecitos water and sewer customers. If you receive water or sewer services from another district, please disregard any information that does not apply to you.

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Board of Directors
Division 1: Betty Evans
Division 2: Jim Hernandez
Division 3: Craig Elitharp
Division 4: Mike Sannella
Division 5: Hal Martin

Management Staff
Tom Scaglione, Interim General Manager
Rhondi Emmanuel, Administrative Services Manager
John Fusco, Finance Manager
Ed Pedrazzi, Operations and Maintenance Manager
James Gumpel, District Engineer

The public is welcome to attend the Vallecitos Board Meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Administration building—201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos.

Meetings are also aired on San Marcos TV on Cox Communications Channel 19, Time Warner Channel 24 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99, which air on the Monday following the Wednesday meeting at 6:30 pm. Visit www.san-marcos.net/smtv for programming schedule.

Making it simpler for Vallecitos customers to save water and money

To help ensure sufficient water reliability in case drought and future weather uncertainties persist, Vallecitos is encouraging customers to take advantage of some great resources to make the change to a water-efficient lifestyle a little easier.

Water-efficient resources have now been organized on a single website at http://sustainablelandscapessd.org/, where customers can find information on:

- Rebates on water-efficient devices.
- Water-wise landscape classes offered throughout San Diego County.
- Technical assistance available through personalized landscape design coaching.
- Free landscape evaluations that provide individualized recommendations for increasing water efficiency.

Check out the website for more ideas to create your water-wise future!

Reimagine your landscape. Water Conservation. IT’S FOR LIFE.

SaveOurWater.com