



201 Vallecitos de Oro • San Marcos, California • 92069 • (760) 744-0460

Press Release

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Area restaurants increase drought awareness, benefit from using biodegradable cup

In kitchens all along Restaurant Row and beyond, it isn't uncommon for chefs to use dashes, ounces, teaspoons, or liters during the preparation of signature dishes. But in this unique time of drought, there now is a more important unit of measure Vallecitos is happy to see eateries become more familiar with – the cup.

Coinciding with the recent declaration of Drought Level 2 by the Vallecitos Water District Board of Directors, the District's Conservation Department tried a unique approach in increasing conservation at restaurants by distributing free, biodegradable cups.

The overall goal: go beyond initial water savings in the dining room generated by serving water only upon request to decreasing use in the kitchen by eliminating water needed to clean glasses. It has been determined that it takes a half-gallon of water to clean a single glass, so the impact on overall water savings from avoiding this practice cannot be overstated.

Approximately 25,000 cups that featured a message about water conservation and their overall beneficial use to the environment were distributed to more than 20 San Marcos-area restaurants with favorable results.

"It is wonderful. We're washing less glassware. Only a few customers don't like the idea of drinking from a disposable cup, but everybody else likes them. We're saving water everywhere," Original Roadhouse Grill, San Marcos

"They are fabulous. We use them only for breakfast and lunch when our customers want water. It's been well received. We love that they are biodegradable and free. Our employees use them too," Market Street Café, San Marcos.

In keeping with the environmental theme, Vallecitos distributed cups that are constructed of PLA biopolymer, a resin derived from cornstarch. These cups do not need to be washed after use. Instead, they can be thrown away, where they will biodegrade in 50 days instead of lingering in a landfill for 1,000 years, as studies show happen to their plastic cup or bottle counterparts that can't be recycled.

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The Vallecitos Water District is an independent, special district dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to approximately 85,600 people in a 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; portions of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista; and other surrounding unincorporated areas. The public is invited to Board meetings, taking place at 4 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at Vallecitos' Administration, Maintenance, and Operations Facility - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos.