



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

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vallecitos Board declares Level 2 Drought Alert

Following suit with the governor, and wholesalers Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), the Vallecitos Water District Board (Vallecitos) of Directors unanimously voted to move to a Level 2 Drought Alert at their regular meeting yesterday. The new level will prompt mandatory water-use restrictions and drought-rate pricing for all Vallecitos customers starting July 1, 2009, and into the foreseeable future.

In response to the dry winter seasons the past two years and judicial pumping restriction to the region, reservoir levels have been severely drained, forcing SDCWA to cut supplies to its member agencies. As a result, Vallecitos has enacted the next level of its Drought Ordinance to lower water demand by 10 percent so it falls in line with its wholesaler's allotment cut. However, Vallecitos recognizes the historical commitment of its "Frugal Users" – five units or less each month – and will not seek further reduction from them with the move to this drought level.

As detailed in Vallecitos Water District's Board-approved ordinance, the mandatory conservation actions for Level 2 include:

- Residential and commercial landscape irrigation being limited to no more than three days per week, and no more than once a week from November through May. (Excludes commercial growers or nurseries).
- Irrigation sprinklers being limited to no more than 10 minutes per watering station per day. (Systems using water-efficient devices are excluded).
- Ceasing the washing down of pavements, including sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or patios.
- Preventing water waste associated with inefficient landscape irrigation as well as flows onto non-targeted areas such as nearby properties, hardscapes, or roadways.

- Irrigating only before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.
- Using a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or bucket to irrigate landscapes not connected to an automatic system.
- Ceasing operation of ornamental fountains unless re-circulated water is used.
- Washing vehicles using a bucket and hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, mobile high pressure/low volume wash system or at a commercial site that re-circulates water onsite.
- Serving and refilling water in restaurants only upon request.
- Offering guests of commercial lodging the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.
- Repairing all water leaks within 72 hours of notification by Vallecitos Water District.
- Using recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available.

For more conservation advice or to participate in Vallecitos' free landscape irrigation audit program, all are invited to contact the Vallecitos Water District Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460.

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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.