



## Step up to the 20-Gallon Challenge

Consider it a challenge to answer the ultimate challenge.

The combination of drought and a court-ordered injunction severely limiting the amount of water transported to the region have clouded the water-supply outlook for 2008 and beyond. In an effort to avert this looming crisis, all are encouraged to take the 20-Gallon Challenge - a way to increase voluntary conservation today and avoid mandatory cutbacks tomorrow.

Living in a desert, conservation has become a way a life. The 20-Gallon Challenge is building on this lifestyle by detailing quick, simple ways customers can save water.

Why the sudden need for even greater conservation measures? It all starts with the two distant water sources responsible for all of the water VWD provides.

### Every drop counts

*Pump stoppages in Northern California and dwindling supplies due to drought on the Colorado River make it imperative for all to conserve.*



Colorado River reservoir



Delta Smelt



In June 2007, the Harvey O. Banks pumping plant shut down temporarily to protect Delta Smelt.

The water imported approximately 400 miles east from the Colorado River has been plagued with an eight-year drought. To compensate for the critical losses there,

*Continued on Page 2*



### Join the 20-Gallon Challenge!

Saving 20 gallons a day is cheap and easy. Try some of these tips.

#### LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

Water before 6 a.m. and after 8 p.m.	20-25 gallons per day
Cut irrigation cycles by 1 to 3 minutes	15-25 gallons per minute
Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray	15-25 gallons per day

#### OTHER OUTDOOR

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean pavement	8-18 gallons per minute
Repair leaking hose bibs	15-20 gallons per day per leak
Install covers on pools and spas	30 gallons per day

#### INDOOR

Shorten showers	2.5 gallons per minute
Turn off water when brushing teeth	2 gallons per minute
Wash only full loads of clothes	15-50 gallons per load

## CORRECTION

### Fluoridated water and you

**A**s featured in the last issue of “Splash!”, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) – responsible for 100 percent of the water VWD provides – started fluoridation Nov. 3, 2007. MWD initiated this process to assist its 26 member agencies in compliance with the 1995 law requiring fluoridation of any public water supply with at least 10,000 customers. The article answered the majority of readers’ concerns; however, it has been brought to our attention that further clarification is needed.

- ❶ **In stating fluoride would have “no affect” on water quality, this was related to the aesthetic qualities of taste and odor.**
- ❷ **Due to the size of fluoride molecules, not all reverse osmosis or distillation units will eliminate its presence.**
- ❸ **Fluoridated water should not be mixed with infant formula.**

### Take the challenge - continued from page 1

VWD wholesalers Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority directed its attention approximately 200 miles north to the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta.

However, during winter of 2007, this water source was impacted with one of the driest winters on record. In summer 2007, the outlook went from bad to worse when a federal judge – in an effort to protect threatened Delta smelt - imposed severe restrictions on the pumps responsible for transporting water to Southern California.

The end result of the combination of drought, a dry winter and judicial rulings has made mandatory restrictions in 2008 a possibility, even after a wet winter, unless all conserve.

Participation is easy. Go to [www.20gallonchallenge.com](http://www.20gallonchallenge.com) and pledge. Thank you in advance for making every drop count during this critical water-supply period. ❶

## Enter the annual California-friendly contest

**A**ll customers with landscapes specializing in California-friendly plants are invited to participate in “San Diego County’s 5th Annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest.”

Winners will receive a \$500 gift certificate to an area nursery, an honorary paver at the Water Conservation Garden in Cuyamaca, and recognition on VWD’s website and in newsletters. Recognition will be assigned to multiple categories. Participation is as easy as 1-2-3-4



- 1.) Tidy up your California-friendly landscape
- 2.) Provide required info from the application
- 3.) Gather other required items, e.g., plant list, water bill, explanation of water savings, photos
- 4.) Mail complete package to appropriate recipient at VWD.

Contact VWD’s Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460 to request an application and receive more information.

Hurry! The deadline is April 7, 2008! ❶

The new [www.vwd.org](http://www.vwd.org) - coming soon to a computer near your

**The new, totally revamped [www.vwd.org](http://www.vwd.org) is coming soon! Visit and find out more about the District through easier navigation and functionality. Rapid access to information regarding District services, emergency alerts, or current weather conditions is just a future click away!**



# San Marcos: a city of irrigation efficiency

Moving forward, new innovations and technology will be key to conservation and within VWD's boundary you need not look any further than your local park or road median for evidence of this.

Although an entirely separate agency from VWD, the City of San Marcos has been progressive in its water-use efficiency. A quick car ride anywhere in the city limits will likely direct you past any number of award-winning street medians featuring drought-tolerant plants irrigated with an efficient system or local parks that feature well water use, waterless urinals, and low-flush toilets.

Maintaining the irrigation schedules for recreational facilities, 16 parks, as well as the miles of intertwining trails connecting them within the "Valley of Discovery" may seem like a daunting task, but much help is received through automation.

Instead of having someone from staff check every controller and sprinkler head, the City's Park Department is able to save time and labor by monitoring everything from one desk. By implementing a central control system, hundreds

of sites and weather sources can be controlled and monitored from one location by way of communication mediums such as telephone, cellular modem, and radio, just to name a few.

The automated evapotranspiration (ET)-based irrigation control and flexible scheduling system allows control of multiple sites to exact specifications. ET is the sum of the amount of water evaporated and amount of water used by a plant after rain or irrigation. The amount is usually dictated by the National Weather Service or some other on-site weather station.



In the future, the City of San Marcos will be opening more new parks and roads. More than likely, they will feature the same unique water-efficient irrigation and drought-tolerant plants to continue to preserve this precious natural resource VWD imports from hundreds of miles away.

dreds of miles away.

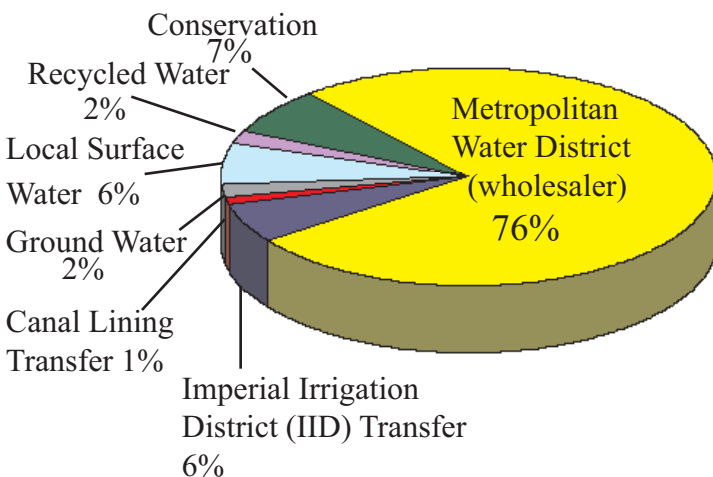
Although your property's irrigation needs may not match the scope of the City of San Marcos, you can still conserve by way of new, innovative technology such as ET controllers and more, too.

Contact the VWD Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460 to find out more information.

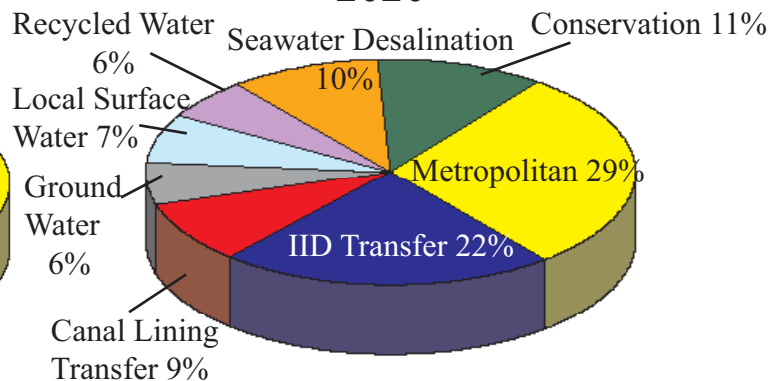
# San Diego County Water Reliability Portfolio

Diversification is a good strategy in financial investments – water sources development too!

**Current Snapshot  
2007**



**Desired Snapshot  
2020**



Source: San Diego County Water Authority



# Board Highlights/News

## December 2007 Board Meetings

▼ The VWD Board unanimously agreed to reorganize, electing Director Tim Shell, Division 1, President and Trish Hannan, Division 2, Vice President for 2008. The reorganization also included changes in officers and committees essential to guiding District policy. Visit [www.vwd.org](http://www.vwd.org) for Board assignments.

▼ Board voted for approval of a VWD audit for Fiscal Year 2006/07 performed by Charles Z. Fedak & Company. Go to [www.vwd.org](http://www.vwd.org) to see the detailed report.

## January 2008 Board Meetings

▼ Board voted to approve the adopted ordinance implementing 30 percent cutbacks for participants of the Interim Agricultural Water Plan effective Jan. 1, 2008.

*All are welcome to attend VWD Board Meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the District's Administration building - 201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos*

▼ Students, turn your special district knowledge into money for college. Through the California Special District Association, VWD is awarding \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors, attending a school or living within the District boundaries, who develops the most comprehensive essay explaining the uniqueness of special districts. Information regarding the contest should be available at your school, however you are welcome to contact the District at (760) 744-0460, ext. 237. ☺

### DID YOU KNOW...

**"The average cost for water supplied to a U.S. home is approximately \$2 per 1,000 gallons?"**

**Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency**

*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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