



201 Vallecitos de Oro  
 San Marcos, CA 92069  
 (760) 744-0460  
 www.vwd.org

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 Torrey Webb, Public Information Representative

All are welcome to attend the Vallecitos Board Meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm in the Administration building—  
 201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos.

**Save Water!**

**Irrigate only 3 days a week.**



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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## Free Gardening Question Hotline!

Have questions about gardening in these water-challenging times? Call the Water Smart Pipeline!



Nan Sterman answers your questions about water smart landscaping. Nan teaches the popular “Bye Bye Grass” class at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College and is the author of California Gardener’s Guide Volume 2, a book about low-water gardening. She also hosts the gardening television program “A Growing Passion” on San Diego channel 4.

Call 866-962-7021 x 17  
 Pipeline hours  
 Tuesdays 8:30 am to noon  
 Thursdays 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm



## How have we been doing? So far, so good

Back in July 2009, when the challenging call for mandatory conservation went out for the first time in more than 20 years, Vallecitos Water District customers didn't simply take note; they took forceful action.

Following the lead of its wholesaler, the San Diego County Water Authority, Vallecitos Board Directors voted to enact Drought Level 2 – the first level of mandatory conservation of a four level drought ordinance. Customers responded to the ordinance by not just meeting, but exceeding the water conservation goal of 10 percent.

From July through September, Vallecitos customers routinely surpassed the conservation goal. With the change of season and weather pattern, demand routinely declines. This resulted in customers achieving this goal in October and falling short of it in November.

However, when all five months are tabulated, the overall conservation total is a very commendable 19 percent.

Response has been so positive, outdoor irrigation restrictions specified in our ordinance have been revised to allow for the continued three days of irrigation, as opposed to only one day that was slated to begin November 2009.

As further evidence of customers making every drop

count, the water-use reduction was accompanied with a sharp increase in participants for Vallecitos' free home audit program, as well as an unprecedented demand for rebates for purchasing water-saving devices for the entire region.

Vallecitos staff thanks all for their early conservation efforts and asks all to keep up the good work.

This is definitely a solid start and clears the initial hurdle placed in front of all water

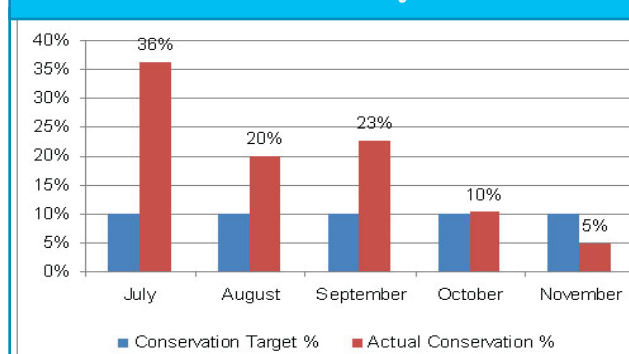
providers and users due to drought and judicial rulings affecting our imported water supply.

Although there has been a remarkable response to the first five months of mandatory conservation, please remember: it took years of dry weather to constrain our water supplies. Therefore, it will probably take years of wet weather to completely remedy this situation.

As we move into the cooler, shorter and sometimes damper days of winter, please keep up the good work and remember that conservation is a year-round activity.

For assistance in possibly lowering your water use, please contact the Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460.

**Conservation Totals July - Nov. 2009**



***Keep up the good work! Vallecitos customers have conserved an average of 19 percent the first five months of mandatory conservation.***

# Lower water demand and water bills this winter

## We are here to help



Vallecitos Water District still offers its free home or business water use audits. A member of our staff would be happy to conduct tests and observe your irrigation schedule in an effort to assist you in lowering water demand. Call 760-744-0460 to schedule your appointment today.

You may have gone on vacation during the spring or summer. Now it's your irrigation system's turn for the fall and winter.

Approximately 50 percent to 80 percent of total household water use in our region goes toward outdoor use. With the cooler weather and rain associated with fall and winter, it's the perfect time to give your irrigation system, as well as the expenses associated with running it, a break and save even more water in the process.

Eliminate unnecessary watering in the coming winter months:

- Water with the weather; adjust watering schedules as temperatures and daylight hours decrease.
- Turn sprinkler systems off during the rain and/or install a rain sensor (such inexpensive devices shut off sprinkler system when enough rain has fallen).
- Replace the batteries in your irrigation controller. This will prevent your controller from automatically defaulting to a daily irrigation schedule in case of a power outage.
- Adjust sprinkler heads to make sure water is going where it's needed and not on sidewalks and driveways.
- Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, or shrubs or turn soaker hoses upside-down so the holes are on the bottom. This will help prevent evaporation.

For more information on conservation, visit [www.vwd.org](http://www.vwd.org) or contact the VWD Conservation office at (760) 744-0460.



# 2010 ushers in new Vallecitos Water District change in leadership

VWD Board appoints Dennis O. Lamb as next General Manager

After more than 26 years at the helm, Vallecitos Water District (VWD) General Manager William W. Rucker retired on January 5, 2010. The Board of Directors have named 26-year Vallecitos veteran Deputy General Manager, Dennis O. Lamb, to succeed him.



*William Rucker retired after more than 25 years as Vallecitos Water District General Manager*

William Rucker started his career in 1974 as a Utility Worker on the Vallecitos sewer crew. It wasn't long before he went on to an assignment as Administrative Assistant for

the General Manager. In 1978, he worked as an Engineering Aide, eventually becoming Assistant General Manager in 1982, and finally, General Manager of the San Marcos County Water District (now Vallecitos Water District) in 1984.

He departs as the longest serving General Manager in Vallecitos Water District history.

"I am thrilled that the Board of Directors selected Dennis O. Lamb as my replacement. Dennis is the anchor of our management team and someone I can easily transition with to the benefit of the



*Dennis O. Lamb, another 26-year veteran of Vallecitos Water District, will be the new General Manager*

community and the Vallecitos family as a whole," said William Rucker.

Dennis Lamb first arrived at the District as an engineering tech in 1982. Through the years, he became Engineering Manager in 1990, Director of Engineering and Operations in 1998, and Deputy General Manager in 2008.

In his new General Manager role, Dennis will use his vast experience toward maintaining the efficient and reliable services Vallecitos customers have come to expect.

"I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of service to the public that every Vallecitos employee has," said Deputy General Manager Lamb regarding his new position.