



Are you water-restriction proof?

When the State Water Project - responsible for all of the water imported to our region from Northern California - announced a more than 15 percent cut from the amount of water allotted in 2008, it became apparent that the drought will make customers have to do more with even less water for 2009.

One emergency method for controlling use that will likely occur in 2009 is a Vallecitos Water District (VWD)-Board-approved drought/water shortage ordinance. The ordinance contains four different levels, which increases restrictions the higher the numeral. We are currently at Drought Level 1, which is voluntary conservation. However, the following are mandatory conservation practices that will be enforced with the declaration of a Level 2 Drought Watch.

Purchase a broom. Stop washing down paved surfaces, including sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or patios, except when it is necessary to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards.

Contain outdoor irrigation. Stop water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation such as runoff, low-head drainage, or overspray. Similarly, stop water flows onto non-targeted areas, such as adjacent properties.

Timing will be everything. Irrigate landscapes before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only. However, nursery and commercial growers may irrigate anytime with a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a bucket, or when a drip/micro-irri-

Continued on Page 2

DON'T DOUBT THE DROUGHT!

The following are mandatory conservation practices that will be implemented if a Level 2 Drought Watch is declared:



Washing down pavements, including sidewalks, tennis courts, and parking lots will be prohibited.



Repair all water leaks within five days of notification unless other arrangements are made with VWD.



Stop water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, low-head drainage, or overspray.

Irrigate only between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Use a nozzle and bucket when cleaning vehicles

Use recirculated water to operate ornamental features

Prepare for water-use restrictions - continued from page 1

gation system/equipment is used. Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time, as well as watering of livestock.

For decorations, use water again and again. Use re-circulated water to operate ornamental fountains.

Grab a nozzle and bucket. Wash vehicles using a bucket and a hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, mobile high pressure-low volume wash

system, or at a commercial site that re-circulates water.

Fix it quickly. Repair water leaks within five days of notification, unless arrangements are made with VWD.

VWD appreciates all of your efforts during this drought period. We are not only your water provider, but community partner too. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460. ☺

Encina Wastewater Authority gives back to the environment

Each day, over 26 million gallons of sewage flows from homes and businesses in Carlsbad, Encinitas, Leucadia, Vista and San Marcos to the Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA), which operates the wastewater treatment plant near the sunny coast of Carlsbad. But what the plant takes in isn't nearly as interesting as what it puts out.

As a byproduct of the treatment process, EWA generates wastewater solids or biosolids, which is the organic material separated from the wastewater. In keeping with its mission to be an environmental leader, EWA (partially owned by VWD), recently installed cutting-edge technology to convert the lower-grade "Class B" biosolids into pathogen-free "Class A" biosolids pellets by using a heat drying process. This green technology will reduce EWA's carbon footprint by helping to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.



EWA's biosolids pellets help the environment as a soil amendment or biofuel

locally due to the increased quality of the product. The resulting savings is an estimated 88,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year!

Reuse: EWA will reuse the methane gas generated from the biosolids treatment process to fuel the new biosolids heat dryer and the internal combustion engines driving the plant's power generators. As a result, EWA will now be able to generate enough energy to supply around 60 percent of the power demand of the plant, which is about 9.6 million kilowatt hours per year. This equates to meeting the energy demands of 1,600 households for a year.

Recycle: By recycling the biosolids into high quality pellets, EWA has created a marketable product, which can now be sold locally as a soil amendment or a biofuel to help offset the operational costs of the plant. Several potential customers have expressed an interest in using the pellets as a biofuel, in place of coal, to help reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

To learn more, email RenEWAblenews@encinajpa.com and ask to receive the e-bulletin. ☺



Enter San Diego County's 6th Annual California Friendly Landscape Contest today!

More than \$5,000 in prizes for homeowners
For more information, go to www.landscapecontest.com or contact VWD at (760)744-0460.

Hurry, the entry deadline is April 6, 2009!

Students demonstrate how "Water Is Life"

Entrants display water-wise knowledge in 2008 Poster Contest

Helainna Stacco, first place



Alexa Melgoza, second place



Kiana Otte, third place



Every year, VWD and the North County Water Agencies sponsor a water awareness poster contest, giving fourth graders in north San Diego County the opportunity to artistically demonstrate their wise-water-use knowledge.

Last year, VWD had approximately 50 water-conscious students enter the 2008 contest with the theme "Water Is Life." We then selected the top three drawings to represent VWD in the North County Water Agency 2009 calendar.

All three winners are currently in the fifth grade at Reidy Creek Elementary School in Escondido. Helainna Stacco was the first-place winner, Alexa Melgoza took second place, and Kiana Otte finished third.

Entries are now being accepted for fourth graders, living within VWD's service area, to illustrate wise water use for the 2010 calendar.



For an entry form, pick up a 2009 calendar from VWD's Administration Office in San Marcos or contact the Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460.

VWD Poster Contest Winners (l to r):
Kianna Otte and Alexa Melgoza.
Not pictured: Helainna Stacco.

VWD introduces new, improved bill statement

VWD will soon unveil a new bill statement format, featuring a detailed analysis of charges and a bar graph of monthly water usage history.

The new bar chart, which details units used on a rolling, annual period, will assist customers in assessing their monthly water use. Also new are the precise meter readings and average daily water usage measured in gallons as opposed to units.

Such new features will provide customers with a more detailed snapshot of their water use so they can

make changes in usage patterns to achieve desired savings.

Also listed are detailed breakdowns for charges from VWD and its two wholesalers – the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

With a changed format providing a better breakdown of charges on the bill statement, customers are better informed as to exactly where their money goes. As always, VWD will continue its commitment to provide the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost.



Board Highlights/News

Sept. - Dec. 2008 Board Meetings

After a presentation by City of San Marcos staff, the Board approved updated plans for the new South Lake Park.

Three incumbents - Margaret E. Ferguson, Darrell Gentry, and Timothy Shell - were sworn in for new terms during a Board meeting of the Vallecitos Water District Board of Directors. Running uncontested during the general election, they will continue to assist in setting District policy and direction through 2012.

The VWD Board unanimously agreed to reorganize, tapping Director Trish Hannan (Division 2), as Board President and Margaret E. Ferguson (Division 4), as Board Vice President for 2009. The reorganization also included changes in officers and committees essential to guiding District policy.

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

Graduating seniors....do you know what a special district is? Those that do may win a \$1,000 scholarship. Every year the San Diego Chapter of the California Special Districts Association offers six scholarships to seniors that create an essay that most accurately expresses special district knowledge. Call VWD at (760) 744-0460, ext. 238 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW...

"If all U.S. households installed water-saving features, water use would decrease by 30 percent- a total savings of \$11.3 million per day?"

Source: American Water Works Association

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.

201 Vallecitos de Oro
San Marcos, CA 92069
760.744.0460
www.vwd.org

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 184
Escondido, CA

Board of Directors

- Div. 1: Tim Shell
- Div. 2: Trish Hannan
- Div. 3: James Poltl
- Div. 4: Margaret E. Ferguson
- Div. 5: Darrell Gentry

Management Staff

- William W. Rucker, General Manager
- Dennis O. Lamb, Deputy General Manager
- Tom Scaglione, Director of Finance
- Len Caudle, Director of Human Resources
- Ken Gerdes, Engineering Manager
- Rich Arrant, Operations & Maintenance Manager

Editorial Staff

- Lisa Urabe, Public Information/Conservation Supervisor
- Torrey Webb, Public Information Representative