

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Take the 20-gallon-a-day challenge today for water reliability tomorrow

San Marcos, CA - As historic dry conditions affecting the region's water supply sources and uncertainty regarding the volume of deliveries from the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta loom, Vallecitos Water District is asking all customers to conserve 20 gallons a day to ensure water for 2008 and beyond.

The combination of an eight year drought on the Colorado River, limited rain and snow in the Northern California Sierras, as well as court proceedings challenging state and federal environmental permits that allow water to be pumped to Southern California, VWD wholesalers are finding it necessary to withdraw water from storage to accommodate 2007 demand.

But there is good news. Everyone can help, and it can be as little as saving 20 gallons per day. Quickly meet that conservation goal by:

Irrigating landscapes before 6 a.m. and after 8 p.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind. *Estimated savings – 20 to 25 gallons per day per valve*

Avoid over-watering landscaping by cutting irrigation to only 2 or 3 days per week, using the landscape calculator at www.vwd.org, or only after the top inch of soil is dry. *Estimated savings – 25 to 50 gallons per valve for each minute or irrigation eliminated*

Using a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. *Estimated savings – 150 gallons or more per use*

Adjusting sprinklers to prevent overspray and run-off. *Estimated savings – 15-20 gallons per day per valve*

Repairing leaks and broken sprinkler heads. *Estimated savings – 20 gallons per day per leak*

Adding 2-inches to 3-inches of mulch around trees to reduce evaporation. *Estimated savings – 40 gallons per day per valve/hydrozone*

Calling 1-800-986-4538 to participate in water conservation through programs such as the Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Voucher Program, featuring low-water-use toilets, urinals, connectionless food

steamers, pre-rinse spray valves, water brooms and high-efficiency clothes washers. *Estimated savings – determined by fixture used*

Due in part to the major storage in place at facilities owned by VWD wholesalers the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and San Diego County Water Authority – as well as customer usage patterns - there should be no need for mandatory cutbacks in 2007. The same cannot be said for 2008 and beyond.

Therefore, conserving today could lessen impacts tomorrow. Moving forward, conservation will be an integral part to the water-supply equation and this is the time for anybody that can provide assistance to act.

For more advice, contact VWD's Conservation Office at (760) 744-0460, or visit any of these web sites: www.bewaterwise.com, www.thegarden.com, or www.treeoflifenuresery.com.

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Vallecitos Water District is an independent, special district dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to approximately 86,000 people in a 45- square-mile area that includes San Marcos, Lake San Marcos - portions of Escondido, Carlsbad, and Vista - as well as 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 VWD's Administration, Operations and Maintenance Facility - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos.