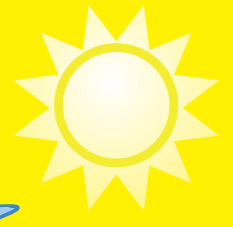


# splash



SUMMER 2007

## Santa Clarita Valley water agencies agree to develop long-term plan

The time is right for collaboration on water conservation

This July, the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts entered into an agreement with the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) and other Santa Clarita Valley water purveyors to develop a long-term plan to achieve 10 percent water conservation. Possible water efficiency tactics may include the adoption of county or city ordinances and restrictions on landscaping that requires considerable water.



summer and to make it a way of life in the years to come. These water companies provide water to the entire Santa Clarita Valley.

While CLWA has made significant efforts to ensure the area has a reliable supply of water, it does not eliminate the need for customers to use water efficiently. Water should be used responsibly in rainy years as well as dry.

Weather data has shown that since last October, the Santa Clarita Valley has received only 3.5 inches of overall rainfall. As the normal amount of rainfall is 18 inches, this is a record-breaking dry year. Santa Clarita Valley residents should be aware that the entire state of California is drier than normal. Anything residents can do to be efficient with water now puts the Santa Clarita Valley in a better position if next year is dry as well.

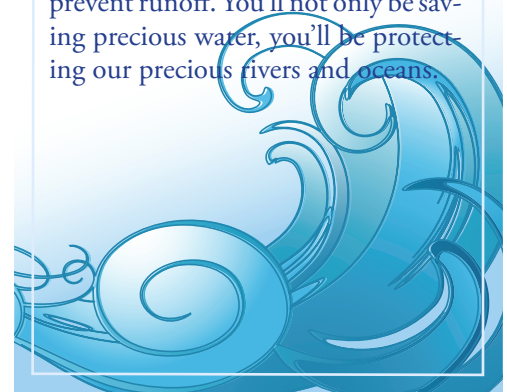
CLWA, in conjunction with the Santa Clarita Water Division, Los Angeles County Waterworks District 36, the Newhall County Water District, and the Valencia Water Company, are asking their customers to use water efficiently in anticipation of a hot, dry

## Save Water, Protect the Santa Clara River

While protecting our water supply is always a key reason to use water responsibly, it's not the only reason to make sure it's not overused or wasted. Overusing water can also cause pollution to our rivers and oceans—water that runs off yards from excess or improper watering ends up in the street where it picks up pollutants like trash, bacteria, and motor oil on its way through the storm drain system and ends up in the Santa Clara River and later the Pacific Ocean.

To stop polluting, make sure your sprinkler system is operating correctly; that sprinkler heads are not tilted, clogged or broken, that the system doesn't leak and that the water is directed to your lawn and plants and not running off onto the streets and sidewalks. In addition to saving water, making sure no excess water runs off your property protects the river.

So please, take a few minutes a week to check your sprinkler system and prevent runoff. You'll not only be saving precious water, you'll be protecting our precious rivers and oceans.





# 10 TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND WATER

With the driest season on record, water conservation should be high priority this summer for all District 36 and 21 residents. With so little rain, every drop counts! Here are 10 easy and effective ways to save water at home and in the garden:

- 1 Adjust your sprinklers.** Up to 70 percent of residential water use goes to maintaining our yards. Try taking a minute or two off the timer.
- 2 Check your system.** Do a weekly check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and replace them right away. Make sure you are watering your yard and not the driveway or sidewalk.
- 3 Fix those leaks.** Just a drip can waste more than 10,000 gallons per month. A leaking flapper on a toilet also increases flows at the water treatment plant.
- 4 Plant native species or drought-tolerant plants.** Many of the lawns and plants we use are not intended for the unique climate in Southern California. Visit your local nursery and ask for native plants that work well in your area.
- 5 Use a broom instead of a hose.** Sweeping up rather than hosing off leaves or grass clippings not only saves water, it reduces runoff.
- 6 Get an adjustable hose nozzle for outdoor use.** That way you can adjust the spray to meet your needs. A hose running for five minutes uses the same amount of water as a 20-minute shower.
- 7 Eliminate runoff.** Runoff could mean your lawn needs aeration. When you aerate your lawn, you give the water somewhere to go besides down the storm drain.
- 8 Take shorter showers.** Cutting two minutes off your shower time can save 600 gallons a month for a family of four. If you change the showerhead to a water efficient model, you could save even more.
- 9 Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.**
- 10 Wash only full loads of laundry.** Waiting until you have a full load can save you up to 20 gallons for the same amount of clean clothes.



## “Three Easy Ways” Advertising Campaign

The District’s new water conservation education campaign aims to reduce indoor and outdoor water consumption through awareness. Look for our new campaign featuring “Three Easy Ways” to reduce water wastage in your local newspaper.

“Now that it’s summer, saving water should be on every resident’s mind,” says Melinda Barrett, Water Conservation Program Manager with the Districts. “Unknowingly, people can waste hundreds of gallons a day in their outdoor water usage. These are simple things everyone can do in their own homes to save water and money.”

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Mission: “To provide reliable, high-quality water at a reasonable cost to all of our customers.”