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LVMWD Board Lifts One-Day Irrigation Restriction

Customers Now Free to Manage Irrigation Using Water Budget Guidelines

CALABASAS, CA January 14, 2016 – At their January 12 meeting, the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Board of Directors lifted the one-day-per-week irrigation restriction. Instead, under the District's "Water Budget" billing structure that took effect at the beginning of the year, LVMWD customers may now select their own watering day(s) and durations, while recognizing the need to continue conservation during the ongoing drought emergency. However, all other drought restrictions remain in place, including prohibitions on runoff and watering between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The revised policy applies to properties irrigated with potable or recycled water.

General Manager David W. Pedersen said, "This is a significant change. The new Water Budget billing structure gives customers flexibility in managing their water use, but we urge everyone to proceed with caution, because exceeding the monthly water budget can be very costly. This change in policy should not be interpreted as an indication the drought is over, we remain in a drought emergency. A penalty of as much as five dollars per billing unit (100 cubic feet) applies for wasteful water use, in addition to the cost of water."

The new rate structure applies individual monthly water budgets to each customer. Included is an indoor use allocation of 55 gallons per person per day and an allowance for outdoor use based on the amount of irrigated area and local weather, which means less water allocated in the cooler months and more during warmer weather.

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To familiarize customers with their individual monthly budget allocations, an online calculator is available at: www.LVMWD.com/MyWaterBudget. The web page will project an individual household's water budget through May. Customers will also receive their forward-looking water budget with each service bill beginning in February.

Mr. Pedersen added, "This is an excellent time for customers to learn how to actively manage their outdoor water use. The recent rains and cool weather provide an opportunity to conserve water. It makes no sense to apply the same amount of water to a landscape in January as was applied in July. For the coming months, most landscapes can be maintained with little or no irrigation."

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, wastewater treatment services, recycled water and biosolids composting for residents and businesses in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and surrounding unincorporated portions of western Los Angeles County.

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