

Santa Clarita Valley Water Suppliers Declare Water Supply Alert and Call For Voluntary Actions To Conserve Water Supplies

On June 4 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a statewide drought proclamation in response to continued dry weather conditions which have resulted in below normal water supplies. This is the first drought declaration issued in California in over 16 years. Therefore, the Santa Clarita Valley Family of Water Suppliers¹ has prepared a **Voluntary Water Conservation Action Plan** which calls on residents and businesses in the Santa Clarita Valley to take reasonable actions to reduce water use and eliminate waste.

This Water Alert is aimed at increasing awareness of the critical water supply conditions throughout California and the immediate need for conservation. The **Voluntary Water Conservation Action Plan** provides simple and easy steps for residents and businesses to take. If successful, this plan could reduce water usage by up to 10 percent. The water suppliers will continue to assess water supply conditions through the end of 2008 and into next year. If water supply conditions worsen in 2009, further actions may be necessary to ensure available water supplies for Valley residents.

WATER CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

Efficient Water Use:

This plan establishes voluntary water conservation measures to be taken by residents and businesses in response to the current drought conditions in California. Because more severe effects of a water shortage are often brought about due to wasteful water use habits carried over from times of sufficient supply, certain voluntary water-use practices are encouraged at all times. They are listed below

Outdoor Water Use Efficiency Guidelines and Recommendations:

- a) Sprinklers should be maintained and adjusted so overspray, runoff, and water waste is avoided. The most effective and water-efficient irrigation should be used, and drip irrigation should be considered where appropriate.
- b) All leaks in plumbing and irrigation systems should be repaired promptly.

¹ The Santa Clarita Valley Family of Water Suppliers are the Castaic Lake Water Agency, Newhall County Water District, Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36, CLWA's Santa Clarita Water Division and Valencia Water Company.

- c) Vehicles should be washed using a hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- d) Sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots or any other hard-surfaced areas should not be washed down, except for health and safety purposes.
- e) Low-water-use native or drought-tolerant vegetation should be used to minimize the need for irrigation. Plants and trees with similar water needs should be grouped together for most efficient irrigation. (Please see www.ncwd.org, www.clwa.org or www.valenciawater.com for information and links to other websites listing drought tolerant plants.)
- f) Landscape should be installed in a manner which will reduce the amount of water needed for irrigation. For example, the use of mulches and watering basins is encouraged where appropriate.
- g) Outdoor irrigation of all vegetation including lawns and landscaping should be limited to three times per week and no more than ten minutes per watering station. Irrigation should occur during optimal watering hours, avoiding wind and heat. The following hours are considered the most efficient hours for customers to effectively irrigate lawns and landscaped areas:

Winter/Fall (November through April)	6 PM to 10 AM
Spring/Summer (May through October)	8 PM to 9 AM
- h) Water usage on any decorative fountains, ponds or other types of water streams should be minimized by incorporating a water recycling system so the water is continually recovered and reused.
- i) Pool and spa safety covers or evaporation-reducing water treatments should be considered if safe and appropriate for the situation. These will help minimize water loss due to evaporation. Pool and spa chemistry should be balanced and maintained to help reduce the frequency of pool/spa draining and refilling.

Indoor Water Use Efficiency Guidelines and Recommendations:

- a) All leaks and/or damage to faucets, toilets, and indoor pipes should be repaired immediately.
- b) Low flow devices for indoor plumbing fixtures including faucets, kitchen spray nozzles, toilets, and showers should be used where possible.

- c)* Install 1.3 or less gallon per flush (gpf) high efficiency toilets or .08/1.6 gallon per flush (gpf) dual-flush toilets.
- d)* Water-efficient Energy Star® approved appliances including, but not limited to, clothes washers and dishwashers should be used.
- e)* Clothes washers and dishwashers should be run using full loads to maximize water efficiency.
- f)* A source specific hot water dispenser or a whole house hot water recirculation system should be considered. These devices generate hot water within seconds, minimizing running the water until it is hot.
- g)* All commercial establishments where food or beverages are provided should encourage the serving of water to their customers only when specifically requested by the customer.