

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

La Crescenta, California 91214

**Agenda for the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Of the Crescenta Valley Water District**

To be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Posted: July 2, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Any written materials distributed to the Board in connection with this agenda will be made available at the same time for public inspection at the District office located at the above address.

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of Agenda

Public Comments

At this time the public shall have an opportunity to comment on any non-agenda item relevant to the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. This opportunity is non-transferable and speakers are limited to one three (3) minute comment.

Consent Calendar

1. **Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the Adjourned Regular Meeting, June 16, 2009.**

Action Calendar

The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Board prior to any action being taken. This opportunity is non-transferable and speakers are limited to one two (2) minute comment.

1. **Revisions to Water Conservation Regulations – Consideration and motion to adopt revisions to Appendix G of the District's Rules and Regulations Manual clarifying Water Conservation Regulations and Policies.**
2. **2009-10 Fiscal Year Budgets – Consideration and motion to adopt the 2009-10 fiscal year Water and Wastewater budgets and proposed Capital Improvement projects.**

Information Items

Written Communications to District

Staff Reports

Secretary-Treasurer

1. **Cash and Investments –July 7, 2009.**

General Manager

1. Administrative Report

District Engineer

1. Water Production Report for June, 2009.
2. Report on Administrative and Field Operations.

Program Specialist

1. Report of Water Conservation issues.

Attorney

1. Report on legal and related matters relevant to the District.

Reports of Committees

Engineering Committee

1. Consideration of engineering issues affecting the District.

Finance Committee

1. Consideration of financial issues affecting the District.

Employee Relations Committee

1. Consideration of employee relations issues affecting the District.

Policy Committee

1. Consideration of policy issues affecting the District.

Community Relations/Water Conservation Committee

1. Report of Community Relations/Water Conservation meeting held on June 22, 2009.

Director's Oral Reports

Report on issues and meetings/activities attended by Directors.

Closed Session

1. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (§54956.9)**
 - Crescenta Valley Water District vs. Exxon Mobil et al.
2. **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation (§54956.9(b))**
 - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(b): Two cases
 - 1 - Contract dispute with MNR Construction
 - 2 - Notice of Violation of NPDES permit, Well No. 2 rehabilitation from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, dated January 13, 2009

Board Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 16, 2009

Pursuant to the order of the Board of Directors of the Crescenta Valley Water District, made at the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2009, an Adjourned Regular Meeting was held on June 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the District office at 2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, California, with President Vasken Yardemian presiding.

At roll call, the following Directors and staff members were present:

Directors:	Richard W. Atwater Charles K. Beatty (Arrived late) Kathleen M. Ross Judy L. Tejada (Arrived late) Vasken K. Yardemian
Attorney:	Thomas S. Bunn III
General Manager:	Dennis A. Erdman
Secretary-Treasurer:	Ron L. Mitchell
District Engineer:	David S. Gould
Others Present: (Staff)	Larry Byers, Plant Superintendent Julian Lee, CIP Manager Christy Scott, Program Specialist

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Yardemian opened the meeting by asking Ms. Cindy Eman to lead the Board and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Director Ross, seconded by Director Atwater, and carried by a 3-0 vote that the Agenda for the Adjourned Regular Meeting of June 16, 2009, be adopted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Yvonne Younger, a District customer, requested that the Board members to provide the last three years of their residential water bills for public review at the next Board meeting and also asked staff and Board to investigate the Las Virgenes Water District's policy regarding their water budget, rate structure and allocation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Director Ross, and seconded by Director Tejada, and carried by a 4-0 vote to approve the Consent Calendar which contained the following items:

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 2, 2009.

That payment of demands against the Crescenta Valley Water District on or before May 31, 2009 the same having been approved by the General Manager, Dennis A. Erdman, and heretofore paid, be ratified and approved subject to audit, in the aggregate sum of Seven Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand, Four Hundred Two Dollars and Eight Five Cents (\$769,402.85), which is composed of the individual items set forth herein.

ACTION CALENDAR

Public Budget Workshop – Director Atwater stated that although this item is in the Action Calendar for tonight’s meeting there will not be any action taken on this item and said that the Public Budget Workshop is open for discussion only. Mr. Erdman provided a memorandum to the Board and staff which outlined the three options for the proposed budget for the District’s water and wastewater operation for fiscal year 2009-10 and said that staff has met with the Finance Committee to review the three different budget scenarios. Mr. Mitchell provided a detailed presentation showing the controllable and uncontrollable costs, MWD/FMWD rate increases, projected imported water and power costs, water production, revenues, O&M expenses, Capital Improvement Projects, and projected wastewater treatment costs. Director Atwater suggested that a line item be included on customers’ bill indicating the imported water charge to help explain the rising cost of water. After much deliberation of the details of the budget, it was decided that staff will make revisions and return this item to the Board for final adoption on July 7, 2009. President Yardemian opened the workshop for public comment, hearing none he closed the public workshop.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Information items included an article from the Pasadena Star News on a proposed water rate delay and a MWD press release related to the rebate program. Mr. Mitchell reported that District employees Mr. Dave Spain, Mr. Jim Halaszynski and Mr. Richard Scott were recognized by ACWA/JPIA for their outstanding contribution to the District’s health and safety programs.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO DISTRICT

The District received two written items; a letter from Las Flores Water Company regarding the parcel tax proposal, and a thank you note from the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley for the District tour on May 23rd.

REPORTS OF PERSONNEL

SECRETARY-TREASURER – Mr. Mitchell provided the Summary of Cash and Investment report which contained the following items:

Investment Portfolio Summary – as of June 16, 2009

Cash Accounts	\$	237,540
National Financial Securities Corp.	\$	55,308
Bond Debt Service Fund Acct	\$	84,973
Local Agency Investment Fund	\$	2,473,421
CIT Group (26)	\$	
CIT Group (29)	\$	1,000,000
Countrywide Financial (33)	\$	
Federal Farm Credit Bank (37)	\$	1,340,000
U.S. Treasury (39)	\$	1,000,000
U.S. Treasury (40)	\$	1,500,000
U.S. Treasury (41)	\$	500,000
Fund Balances at March 31, 2009		
Water	\$	5,710,528.26
Wastewater	\$	3,657,742.07
Capital Improvement Fund	\$	3,228,422.79

Mr. Mitchell reported that the District sold the Countrywide investment for \$1,910 more than the original purchase cost and reinvested the proceeds into a U.S. Treasury (41). Mr. Mitchell reported that the District was notified that Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutsman will not be able to do the District audit this year therefore he has requested quotes from other accounting firms to complete this year's audit.

GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Erdman reported that the Castaic Lake Water Agency has asked for financial help in the dispute with the Regional Water Quality Control Board is asking the District for a \$1,000 contribution for legal expenses which were incurred to argue against two annual permits which will affect the Castaic Lake Water agency along with 40 other agencies and could benefit the District by avoiding costs. He said he will bring this request with more information back to the Board as an Agenda item for further consideration. Next, he asked if the Board has received any information on the recent flu pandemic for the purpose of gathering information in case there is an outbreak. The Board said they have received little to no information.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

Water Production – For the period of June 1 through June 13, 2009, water production averaged 4,041,510 gallons per day, which is 22.6% less than the daily average production of the same period in 2008. This is 25.1% less from the daily average production of the previous five years over the same period and 15.3% less than the Phase I conservation baseline from June 1, 2001 through June 13, 2001.

Rainfall: June 1 – 13, 2009	0.13”
2008-2009 Season to Date:	15.05”

Administrative and Field Operations – Mr. Gould provided a memorandum and discussed the following:

Rainfall Update – 0.13” for June 2009; 0.20” average rainfall for June; Rainfall total of 15.05” is 35% less than average from Oct-May.

Report on Administrative and Field Operations:

Wells: Current well capacity – 3.05 MGD; Well #9 is out of service finalizing work plan with CDPH. Well 14 is out of service and General Pump completed work; start up this week.

Booster Pumps: All Boosters are in service.

Construction Projects:

- **Ramsdell / Mayfield Mixing Station:** Permit for equipment being coordinated with LA County. Project scheduled to be completed by end of June 2009.

LADWP / CVWD Interconnection:

- CDPH Funding Agreement on hold; waiting on funding from the State and unknown when funding will be available.

MTBE Update:

- CDPH submitted application to CDPH for up to \$2 M for treatment facility. Working with RWQCB on possible Biological treatment for Well #5. Next MTBE Task Force scheduled for July 8, 2009. Well #5 MTBE levels at 24 ppb and will continue to be out of service.

Markridge Reservoir Corrosion Study:

- Waiting on MP analyzing data collected for water and air quality.

Field Maintenance and Operations update for June, 2009:

- Miscellaneous lateral leaks on Freeman, Willowhaven, Olive, Harmony, El Caminito, Henrietta and Santa Carlotta. Continued sewer cleaning on Ocean View from Montrose to Honolulu and Briggs from Foothill to Altura. Installed new phone system.

WATER CONSERVATION – Ms. Scott reported on the following items; the summer interns will start this week, 238 water waster letters have been sent out, and that MWD rebates have been suspended and will be reconsidered again in July, 2010.

ATTORNEY – No report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Engineering Committee – Director Ross reported that the Committee had not met.

Finance Committee – Director Tejada reported that the committee met and was discussed in the Public Budget Workshop item of tonight's meeting.

Employee Relations Committee – Director Ross reported that the Committee had not met.

Policy Committee – Director Beatty reported that the Committee had not met.

Community Relations/Water Conservation Committee – Ms. Scott reported that the water conservation program ordinance is being revised and the turf replacement program is having a great response.

DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORTS

- Director Atwater reported that he will attend a breakfast for Senator Bob Dutton in Diamond Bar, will meet with Valley Water about the parcel tax issue and also said he is giving a presentation to La Canada Public Works to discuss the current water drought situation.
- Director Beatty reported that he attended the ACWA Spring Conference in Sacramento it was very productive and he also had the opportunity to speak with several legislators regarding water issues.
- Director Ross – No report.
- Director Tejada reported she is on the planning committee for Region 8, 9 & 10 and their event is scheduled for October 8-10. She said that Regions 5 and 8 are having a free day trip to Castaic Lake on July 24th and if anyone is interested to contact her for more details. Director Tejada asked if anyone else can attend the CVTC meeting on Thursday, June 18th, 2009 Director Ross volunteered to attend.
- Director Yardemian reported that he will attend the breakfast for Senator Bob Dutton in Diamond Bar.

CLOSED SESSION

No action taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, at 8:55 p.m., it was moved by Director Ross, seconded by Director Beatty, and carried that the meeting be adjourned to July 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Vasken A. Yardemian
President

Ron L. Mitchell
Secretary-Treasurer

Memorandum

DATE: July 2, 2009
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Christy Scott
RE: Changes to Water Conservation Ordinances

Items to be considered for changes to the Water Conservation Ordinances:

1. **Watering Times:** Change the not watering times from 10:00 – 5:00 to 9:00 to 5:00. (FMWD adopted the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. which is consistent with MWD, Burbank, Pasadena, and hopefully Glendale).
2. **Watering Limits:** Change the watering limitation from 15 minutes per cycle to 10 minutes per station. Currently the District limits watering to 15 minutes per cycle despite the number of stations. MWD and thus FMWD revised this to be 10 minutes per station. Staff recommends following this for uniformity and to allow additional water allowances due to the two day per week limitations. The time exemption for ET controllers and drip irrigation would still apply.
3. **Hand Watering:** Currently there is no exception for hand watering. Staff recommends that the District consider adding an exemption for hand watering. This could be in the form of hose or watering can only. This exemption would apply to days only, not times and not be applicable to turf.
4. **Public Use Areas:** The District has met with Glendale Unified School District. Despite their best efforts to follow District watering limitations, the school fields were definitely suffering. Staff recommends an exemption for public use areas greater than 4,000 square feet.
5. **Fountains and Swimming Pools:** Change the wording to “adding water for the prevention of equipment failure” is permissible; however, the District strongly urges that a cover be used to prevent evaporation and thereby reducing the frequency of refilling.

This will amend Resolution 682 and Appendix G

Items to be considered for wording changes to the Water Conservation Ordinances:

Items 1 and 2

Irrigating Times: No watering, sprinkling or irrigating shall take place between the hours of **nine a.m. (9:00AM)** and five p.m. (5:00PM) in any landscaped or vegetated areas, including, but not limited to, golf courses, parks, cemeteries and school areas landscaped with, but not limited to, grass, lawn, groundcover, shrubbery, annual and perennial plants, crops, trees, and California-friendly plantings. With the exception of drip irrigation systems or weather based irrigation controllers, residential timers shall not run for more than a total of **10 minutes per station**.

Item 3

Hand Watering: Hand watering of non-turf areas is allowed using a hose with a positive shut-off nozzle or watering can.

Item 4 and 5

Color Code "Orange" is defined as a Rationing Conservation Alert, when Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has implemented its allocation plan to its member agencies. Customers are requested to minimize indoor water use and severely limit outdoor water use as follows:

1. Residential and commercial landscape irrigation is limited to no more than two (2) days per week. Outdoor irrigation will be permitted only on Tuesday and Saturday. Exemption: Public use areas owned and/or operated by school districts are exempt from watering days. Public use areas greater than 4,000 square feet will be permitted to water on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow for continued community programs and special events held on weekends so long as best management practices are applied.
2. The filling, refilling or adding of water to indoor and outdoor pools, wading pools, or spas is prohibited. Exemptions: Repairs mandated by the Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Act, or for adding water for the prevention of equipment failure is permissible, however, the District strongly urges that a cover be used to prevent evaporation and thereby reducing the frequency of refilling.
3. The use of water to clean, maintain, fill, or refill decorative fountains or similar structures is prohibited.
4. Vehicle washing only at car wash with re-circulating system.
5. Fix leaks within 48 hours.

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(Purple indicates new or changed text)

EXEMPTIONS:

- ✦ **Hand Watering:** Hand watering of non-turf areas is allowed using a hose with a positive shut-off nozzle or watering can.
- ✦ **Irrigation Days:** Public use areas owned and/or operated by school districts are exempt from watering days. Community-use areas greater than 4,000 square feet shall be permitted to water on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow for continued community programs and special events held on weekends so long as best management practices are applied.
- ✦ **Filling/Refilling Pools:** Repairs mandated by the Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Act, or for adding water for the prevention of equipment failure is permissible, however, the District strongly urges that a cover be used to prevent evaporation and thereby reducing the frequency of refilling.

Politics

Water restrictions gain traction

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Regulations would limit water usage, but councilwoman questions how they will be enforced.

By Melanie Hicken

Published: Last Updated Thursday, July 2, 2009 12:08 AM PDT

CITY HALL — In response to the growing statewide water crisis, the City Council on Tuesday authorized changes to the city's water conservation ordinance — paving the way for regulations limiting outdoor watering to three times a week in August.

The new regulations take effect Aug. 1, at which point utility officials are expected to ask for and get their three-day-a-week watering restrictions to reduce usage citywide by 10%. Watering would be restricted to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for no more than 10 minutes a day. Watering irrigation would also be banned between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Glendale Water & Power pushed for the water restrictions to help it stay within a reduced allotment that went into effect Wednesday from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which supplies up to 70% of Glendale's water.

Glendale joins cities across the region in enacting or preparing for water restrictions. In June, the Crescenta Valley Water District, another Metropolitan client, increased its water rationing, limiting outdoor watering to only two days a week.

In order for the city's conservation efforts to produce the necessary reduction and keep the utility from incurring heavy penalties from Metropolitan, officials stress that all residents must comply with the regulations.

"We have to have 100% compliance," said Peter Kavounas, assistant general manager for water services. "I think people will respond. I think we will get there."

Overall, La Crescenta residents seem to have taken to the regulations, resulting in an almost 20% reduction in water use in the first two weeks of June compared to the period last year, said Dennis Erdman, general manager of the Crescenta Valley Water District.

"We are seeing some good cooperation from our customers on conservation," he said. "We hope it will continue as the temperatures rise."

Next week, Glendale Water & Power will begin a massive public outreach campaign — including direct mailings, public service announcements, newspaper advertisements and bill inserts — to get the word out about what residents should expect.

Erdman emphasized the need for outreach efforts, adding that some La Crescenta residents are still surprised to hear the restrictions have been increased to twice a week.

Glendale's move follows weeks of public discussion and community meetings discussing the need for the city to move beyond voluntary conservation, which has only yielded about 4% in water savings since it was enacted last summer.

Last week, the City Council coalesced around the outdoor watering restrictions as an alternative to an unpopular proposal from Glendale Water & Power earlier this year that would have billed customers at least twice the regular rate for any water used that exceeded individually assigned benchmarks, which would be calculated at 10% less than their average consumption in 2006.

"We're going to be changing our lifestyles in the way that we water," said Councilman Ara Najarian.

While the outdoor watering restrictions had more community support, officials and council members have expressed concern about its enforcement.

"I don't think its enforceable," Councilwoman Laura Friedman said at last week's council meeting. "I don't think it's going to work. People are going to be pointing fingers at each other . . . How do you actually enforce this?"

Whereas the original proposal would have been easily policed through higher rates and the billing system, the outdoor regulations will be handled by code enforcement officers who can levy fines of up to \$1,000 for violations.

To cut down on the policing expense, the utility will establish a toll-free hotline, where residents can report illegal water usage.

But in response to concerns of finger-pointing, Kavounas emphasized that penalties will only be levied on infractions that are observed by city code enforcers.

He also noted that enforcement will be used only to deter flagrant repeat offenders.

John Brownell, senior supervisor for city code enforcement, said that enforcing the water ordinance will be folded into the many duties of the city's six code enforcement officers, who enforce everything from zoning laws to the city's recently enacted anti-smoking regulations.

Officials stressed that with the city reaching its hottest time of the year, now is the most important time to be conserving.

THE RULES

GLENDALE

Outdoor watering will be limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for no more than 10 minutes per station, per day.

Outdoor watering will be completely banned between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Vehicle washing must be done with a handheld bucket and a hose with a shut off nozzle.

Hotels must give option not to launder towels and linens.

Leaks must be repaired within 72 hours.

Use of water that causes overspray or runoff is prohibited.

The use of potable water to fill lakes or ponds will be prohibited.

The use of potable water to clean, fill or maintain exterior decorative fountains will be prohibited.

Any new or retrofit landscaping projects will be required to use "California- friendly landscapes" as deemed by the Metropolitan Water District.

LA CRESCENTA

Outdoor watering is limited to Tuesdays and Saturdays for no more than 10 minutes per station, per day.

Outdoor watering is banned between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Use of water that causes overspray or runoff is prohibited.

Leaks must be repaired within 48 hours.

The use of potable water to clean, fill or maintain exterior decorative fountains is prohibited.

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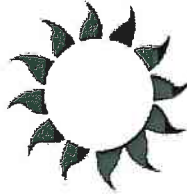
CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2009-2010 Fiscal Budgets

Please see attachment:

http://www.cvwd.com/Resources/Documents/cvwd_200910budget.pdf

CRESCENTA Valley Sun

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Published Friday, June 19, 2009 6:14 PM PDT

News

CVWD one step closer to 09-10 budget

By Megan O'Neil

There was a myriad of variables to consider Tuesday at the Crescenta Valley Water District's (CVWD) meeting during which its directors and engineers tried to develop a budget strategy for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and beyond.

Approximately 50 to 60 percent of the CVWD water comes from local sources including wells and the Picken's Canyon tunnel. The rest is supplied by the Foothill Metropolitan Water District (FMWD). CVWD general manager Dennis Erdman explained that starting in September the cost of water coming from the FMWD will increase by 20 percent. There will be an additional 20 percent increase in January 2011.

Another factor that weighed heavily during the budget discussion was operating costs, specifically electricity costs. The CVWD typically spends \$750,000 each year to power its pumps to get water up the foothills to customers' homes. Power costs continue to increase, Erdman said, a fact that needs to be taken into consideration when planning the budget.

The CVWD also pays fees to the City of Los Angeles for sewage treatment and disposal. Operation costs for the wastewater system maintenance have remained steady, Erdman explained.

The CVWD has cash reserves to somewhat offset the immediate impact of the drastic rate hikes, Erdman said, but a major overhaul of the budget and billing system is needed to remain viable in the coming years. The CVWD's new fiscal year starts in July.

At the meeting, staff presented three specific budgeting options. The first scenario outlined a seven percent rate increase for customers over the next five years. The second scenario detailed a zero percent increase for 2009-2010 and then a 12 percent increase in 2010-2011, followed by increases of seven to 10 percent in subsequent years. The third scenario, which was the most warmly received, outlined a five percent rate increase for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, followed by a six to eight percent increase in subsequent years.

One suggestion made by CVWD director Richard Atwater was to add to customers' bill a line indicating what charges come from the CVWD and what come from the FMWD. That way, customers could see the source of additional charges.

"If the price of imported water goes up 100 percent, we are going to pass that through because the customers need to know the price of imported water," Atwater said. "It will encourage them to conserve."

Atwater also suggested creating a sort of buffer fund in which the CVWD creates a cushion of cash to protect customers from extreme changes in pricing coming from the MWD.

The directors asked staff to make the suggested modifications to the budget, and to represent the plan at the next CVWD meeting on July 3.

Information
Item

LA CAÑADA
Valley Sun



Print Page

Published Thursday, June 25, 2009 4:11 AM PDT

News

Cut water use, LCF told

Local water agencies lay out their plans before the July 1 deadline.

By Ruth Longoria

Requirements differ within the city of La Cañada Flintridge and across the Crescenta Valley, but the message is the same: conserve water — or else.

Foothill Water District, which imports water from Metropolitan Water District (MWP) and supplies water to seven area agencies, among which are La Cañada Irrigation District, Valley Water Company, Mesa Crest Water Company, is asking customers to cut water use in order to keep within the allocations MWP allowed in recent cuts.

Use over an above those allocations will cause penalties, said Nina Jazmadarian, general manager at Foothill Water District.

“And when we get penalties, we have to pass that down to the customers,” Jazmadarian said.

MWP’s restrictions and penalties go into effect on July 1; however the various districts are asking for conservation efforts to be implemented immediately.

Foothill isn’t setting requirements for residents within the specific water districts; however, it is asking that customers limit their irrigation runoff, turn water off when brushing teeth, don’t wash driveways with a hose — sweep instead, take shorter showers, and use other basic common sense methods of reducing water use, she said.

The various water districts that purchase all or a percentage of their water from Foothill Water District also are asking for public help in conserving water.

For those residents who are serviced by Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD), the requirements and implementation of the “Orange alert” designation are perhaps the strictest. CVWD is telling its customers to restrict outside landscaping and other watering to Tuesday and Saturday before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

Those hours are in the process of being changed from the original 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. hours, in order to make it better for people who work during the day, said Christy Scott, program specialist for CVWD.

CVWD also has hired four part-time water conservation interns who completed their training this week and will work various hours during the week and weekends, in order to take notes and pictures of landscaping being watered during the wrong days, hours or involving other over-use issues.

The interns will bring their notes and photos back to CVWD, and homeowners will be notified of the problem. If the problem persists, monitoring methods will be implemented, which could

include limiting water to customers for an unspecified time, a CVWD representative informed the Crescenta Valley Town Council during its meeting last Thursday night.

Scott also suggests residents limit water use on landscaping so water runoff doesn't reach the streets and storm drains, because there it mixes with pesticides and other chemicals and the storm drains move the water directly into the ocean, contaminating that water.

Residents and businesses that receive their water from Valley Water Company, the southeast portion of La Cañada, also are being asked to limit their water consumption by 10% and limit outside watering to two days a week. The days aren't specified, said Bob Fan, general manager for Valley Water Company.

And although Valley Water isn't using "water police," the company is monitoring excessive use of water.

"We do have our employees driving around and if they see over watering of lawns, we will talk to the owner," he said.

Doug Caister, general manager of La Cañada Irrigation District, said residents within that district should have received pamphlets that show the restrictions and requests of customers within his district. The pamphlets also are available at the district office, 1443 Foothill Blvd., and explain the rules and regulations of the current rationing, or allocations, and possible consequences of over use of water, and the fines and penalties that could be assessed the homeowner for violations.

La Cañada Irrigation District is limiting watering days, based on odd and even addresses.

"It's hitting us pretty hard," Caister said, of the penalties that will be assessed by Metropolitan Water District, and subsequently passed down by Foothill Water District.

"There will be less water, and any over the allotment will cost three to four times as much."

At Mesa Crest Water Company, which serves residents near the golf course, General Manager Tim Flynn, whose grandfather started that company, said water conservation also is necessary in this California's fourth year of drought.

Although Flynn isn't requiring customers to water only on specific days, he is asking customers to please cut their use by 15%.

"I buy 100% of my water from Metropolitan and whatever Met asks, I have to pay," he said, adding that he then has to pass that cost down to the customers.

Mesa Crest is also going to a tiered structure water rate, "so, the more you use, the more you pay," he added.

Cutting water use by 15% isn't a harsh request, Flynn said.

"With a little watching your use, you will see ways you can conserve. You don't need to water your lawn every day and although automatic sprinklers are great when you're on vacation, don't be using them when you are home. Pay attention and you'll find ways to cut," he said, adding, "The bottom line is, we're running out of water. We're going to have no water to sell and that will be a sad day."

[CLOSE WINDOW]

COMMENT

To: CVWD Directors/Staff
From: Judy Tejada

PRESSTELEGRAM

Outlook for water supply is bleak

We are starting to see the summer water picture for California — and it's looking a lot like the late 1970s. Or, to put it another way, it's beginning to look a lot like Bolinas almost did.

That's right, chances are much of the rest of California will soon be following the plan put in place and later rescinded by Bolinas, the funky town not too far north of San Francisco in coastal Marin County. Best known for its populace of aging hippies, artists, lawyers and others seeking refuge from crowded urban life, Bolinas was rescued by an unexpected late-March storm that suddenly refilled its key reservoir.

Bolinas isn't often first with anything. But because it has no access to supplies from the state Water Project, the federal Central Valley Project or the San Francisco-owned Hetch Hetchy reservoir system and aqueduct, Bolinas uses only local supplies.

Before the unexpected late-season rains, the key Bolinas reservoir was at risk of running dry before the next rainy season, likely to start in November or December.

So Bolinas adopted California's toughest water rules: Residents were to use no more than 150 gallons per day, 4,500 per month. That amounted to about a 25 percent cutback from normal usage of about 208 gallons per day per water hookup. Violate the rule once or twice and nothing much would happen to residents. But supplies could be cut off on a third violation.

Expect rationing

The Bolinas rules are now in abeyance, but they were only a little bit tougher than what many other places might soon be seeing, despite a few late rains.

In the Central Valley, cities like Folsom and Roseville are weighing water-use cutbacks. Farmers are fallowing fields because allocations from the state Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project remain low. The East Bay



THOMAS ELIAS

Municipal Utility District, covering much of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, has now raised prices because water use there has been cut back so much. That's right: Use less and pay more.

But the most visible water-use reductions might be coming soon in Los Angeles, which has its own aqueduct running from the Owens Valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Conservation or politics?

Despite heavier-than-usual rains in February and March, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has not backed off proposed water use restrictions involving a tiered pricing system punishing consumers and businesses that fail to conserve even beyond today's levels, which see average use down almost 15 percent from the levels of the 1960s.

"The level of severity of this drought is still severe," he said. "We have to move quickly."

No one can be sure whether Villaraigosa's plan is not at least partially motivated by politics. Just reelected to a four-year term as mayor, he may run for governor next year. If so, he'll be the only Southern Californian in a crowded field running for an office that's been held exclusively by Southern California politicians since the 1960s days of Edmund G. (Pat) Brown. Southern Californians in the office have included Ronald Reagan, Brown's son Jerry, George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson, Gray Davis and today's occupant, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Among today's likely candidates, even

ex-Angelino Jerry Brown, the current attorney general, is now a confirmed Northern California resident based in Oakland, where he served two terms as mayor.

No Los Angeles mayor, not even the long-serving Sam Yorty or Tom Bradley, has ever been elected governor. That's been partly because of regional animosity stemming from a Northern California sense that water from that region has been "stolen" by Central Valley farmers and Southern California cities.

A vigorous approach to water rationing by Villaraigosa can only help him in the north, where Southern California is viewed as a profligate water waster — even by people who use unlimited water during droughts because their homes don't feature water meters.

Vigorous is surely an accurate term for what Villaraigosa has instituted: sprinkler use limited to twice a week, with a likely cut to once; no hosing of sidewalks or parking areas; water use in decorative fountains and ponds only if they feature a recirculating system; no washing cars with hoses without a self-closing shut-off device; no watering lawns between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and fines for allowing excess water to flow onto sidewalks, driveways, streets or gutters. If things get worse, there would be no refilling of swimming pools and spas.

"Water cops" may be next

All this implies imposing a "water cop" system like that employed in the '70s, when water department or water district inspectors roved widely looking for violations.

The ultimate penalty for repeated offenders would be a water supply cutoff.

That's the immediate water future for much of California. Not a pretty sight, but it worked in the 1970s and there's no reason to believe it can't work again — unless the rest of the state gets the same kind of reprieve Bolinas did.

Thomas D. Elias is a syndicated columnist who covers California issues (e-mail: tdelias@aol.com). For more Elias columns, visit www.californiafocus.net.

coachella valley TO: Directors/Staff
FROM: Judy Tejada

Desert Water Agency may tap cash reserves to slake financial thirst

BY RASHA ALY

The Desert Sun

Desert Water Agency officials are looking into dipping into the operating fund reserves for next year, fishing for \$1.9 million to cover expenses for uncompleted capital projects.

The agency's board of directors approved a budget of more than \$69 million for fiscal year 2009-2010 with a 4-0 vote during its Tuesday meeting. Board vice president Ronald E. Starrs was absent.

A number of things contributed to having to use the reserves, agency General Manager David Luker said.

The recession has not spared the agency, which serves Palm Springs, parts of Cathedral City and some outlying areas of Riverside County.

With an increase in home foreclosures, fewer people are paying water bills, Luker said. And the building industry, which has slowed considerably, no longer generates the amount of money it once did for the agency.

New expenses are another reason for using reserve funds, Luker said.

Officials have had to pay \$70,000 just

to keep using the trucks we already have," he said. They needed to retrofit the vehicles to meet new air-quality regulations that went into effect this year.

And while conservation helps with saving water, it also has an adverse effect on business, he said.

However, the budget can change, finance director Martin S. Krieger pointed out. With state officials trying to balance the state budget, the figures for the agency's budget could change depending on how much money the state needs.

This fiscal year has also been financially challenging for the agency.

Although the books haven't officially closed for the 2008-09 year, earlier this year the agency looked at taking about \$6 million out of its operating and general fund reserves for this year ending June 30.

To keep up with expenditures, the agency also cut costs.

Two jobs in the engineering department were not filled, employee benefits were cut during the past two years and this year's employees did not receive cost-of-living increases, Luker said.

Info Item

Politics

Saving water may be a must

Print Page

Past voluntary conservation effort yielded results, but it didn't do enough, water official says.

By Melanie Hicken

Published: Last Updated Sunday, June 21, 2009 7:40 PM PDT

CITY HALL — Residents will either have to reduce household water use by 10% or limit outdoor watering to certain days, according to a revised Glendale Water & Power mandatory water conservation proposal.

The City Council on Tuesday will consider both options before deciding which one to bring back for introduction as an ordinance next week in order to help keep the city within its reduced water allotment from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Mandatory conservation, if approved by the council, would take effect in August, a month after Metropolitan, which supplies up to 70% of the Glendale's water, reduces shipments to its member agencies by 10% as a result of a statewide water crisis.

Last June, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared an official statewide drought and directed all water agencies to significantly increase water conservation efforts and implement stricter ordinances. At the time, Glendale Water & Power had enacted a 10% voluntary conservation effort, but that has yielded average cutbacks of only 4%, officials said.

"We got some conservation, but we didn't get enough," said Glendale Water & Power General Manager Glenn Steiger.

Utility officials added the outdoor watering restriction option in reaction to community concerns about the fairness of the original proposal, in which Glendale customers would be billed at least twice the regular rate for any water used that exceeded individually assigned benchmarks, which would be calculated at 10% less than their average consumption in 2006.

Residents who had already been conserving water questioned the fairness of proposed rules, arguing it would punish those who had already been conserving 10% or more.

City Councilman Ara Najarian agreed, noting that if the benchmark proposal were to be chosen, there would have to be allowances made for households that had changed in size or had already been conserving.

"And that's a very difficult thing," he said. "You almost have to do it on a house to house basis if it's going to be effective and fair."

The new option would simply limit any outdoor irrigation to three times a week for no more than 15 minutes at a time, Steiger said.

"This is a much easier option from both the user standpoint and certainly from our standpoint, in order to administer it and keep track of the actual usage," he said.

But whereas the household benchmark option could easily be policed through higher rates, limiting water days would be harder to enforce, he said. Any violations would have to be handled by code enforcement officers, who would levy penalties between \$100 and \$1,000.

"The problem, of course, is it's very hard to monitor. We aren't going to be driving along the streets of Glendale," he said. "But if it is adhered to, it will get us the 10 percent reduction we need."

Utility officials hosted three community meetings called for by the City Council in May as a way to gather

more public input before making a final decision. An overview of community concerns and feedback will be presented to the council Tuesday.

In addition to expressing concerns about the benchmark proposal, residents argued that the city should limit development as drought conditions persist, according to a city report. Other concerns included how mandatory water conservation could conflict with the city's landscape maintenance ordinance.

Utility officials also met with local Realtors who were concerned about a proposal to make retrofitting of plumbing fixtures to be use less water a condition for the sale of a property. As a result of that meeting, officials are looking for alternatives, according to a city report.

Whichever mandatory conservation option is chosen, savings will have to come from a reduction of outdoor water use, officials said, since about 60% of the average amount of water used for a single-family home goes to landscaping.

"I think we have to change our expectations to maintain a perfect lush green lawn," Najarian said. "I don't think we can afford, as a region, to have that sort of lush landscaping. We are going to have to be satisfied with grass that is a little more brown."

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