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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE
METROPOLITAN WATER
DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Glen D. Peterson
MWD Representative

Metropolitan Water District Announces Plan of Action to Improve Water Supply Reliability and Drought Resiliency

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) commends Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) call to action to provide equitable water supply reliability to all member agencies, including LVMWD.

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Calabasas, CA – The MWD Board of Directors unanimously approved a commitment to ensure equitable access to its water supply and storage assets by building infrastructure, increasing local supply availability, expanding partnerships, and advancing water use efficiency at its August 16th Board meeting.

The call to action comes in response to disparate impacts from the historic drought on six member agencies, serving approximately 6.6 million residents of Southern California. The affected areas are referred to as “State Water Project (SWP) dependent” because they rely almost 100% on imported water from the SWP and lack access to alternate supplies stored in Diamond Valley Lake or delivered via the Colorado River Aqueduct. LVMWD is the most severely affected of the SWP-dependent area agencies, facing a 73% reduction in supply from MWD, as its service area lacks local drinking water supplies.

“This is incredibly significant for us,” remarked LVMWD General Manager David Pedersen. “The action is a big step forward in our effort to improve the District’s water supply reliability. It is reassuring that the MWD Board confirmed its commitment to provide equitable access to MWD’s supplies and storage to all member agencies in Southern California. While it will take time to build the infrastructure to receive the full benefit of that commitment, we can now move forward as quickly as possible to make this promise a reality for the future.”

Among several proposed policy statements, MWD committed to eliminate disparate water supply reliability, reconfigure and expand its existing infrastructure, and ensure that all member agencies receive an equivalent level of reliability. This action is particularly important to LVMWD’s customers – who currently rely on just one source of water from the SWP – as it will allow the District to receive water from other sources such as Diamond Valley Lake and the Colorado River. Diversifying water sources is integral to ensuring long-term reliability.

Additional commitments by the MWD Board included increased investments in water use efficiency and landscape transformation programs; additional development of local supplies through recycled water, groundwater recovery, stormwater capture, and desalination; and stabilizing supplies through conveyance improvements, storage infrastructure, and water-loss prevention.

“I am pleased with the Metropolitan Board decision,” said Jay Lewitt, president of the LVMWD Board of Directors. “This is the first in a series of actions that must be taken to be prepared for the challenges brought on by this new and evolving climate landscape.”

In the meantime, LVMWD customers have so far answered the call for emergency conservation, collectively reducing water use throughout the District by 37% in June and 32% in July, compared to the same months in 2020. As a result, water reserves meant for prolonged drought are temporarily keeping the region afloat. However, we cannot let up – we must continue to conserve. A complete ban on outdoor watering is currently not anticipated before December 1st – it was previously considered as early as September 1st. If an outdoor watering ban is required on or after December 1st, it would be triggered because customers in the region have not been conserving enough and/or we have another dry winter.

The District remains in Stage 3 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and customers are required to continue adhering to the current one-day-per-week watering schedule. LVMWD continues to work diligently to secure additional water supply from other sources.

For more information and to stay informed on drought, conservation, and rebates, please visit www.lvmwd.com.

Be sure to follow LVMWD on Facebook, Twitter @lvmwd, and Instagram @LasVirgenes_MWD to join the conversation.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, wastewater treatment, recycled water, and biosolids composting to more than 70,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, and unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County.

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