

CONSERVATION CORNER



WE'VE HAD RAIN AND COOLER WEATHER, SO IS THE DROUGHT OVER? NOT AT ALL!

Throughout the months of November & December we enjoyed a significant drop in temperatures and have seen some rain over the past month or two! This is good news in regards to our decade long drought, but by no means does this signal an end to the drought or the risk of running out of water.

In fact, it will take us a combination of 2-5 years with higher snowpack, lower temperatures, higher rainfall, and less groundwater pumping, to bring our supplies to an average level. Luckily, we are forecasted to receive higher rainfall, unfortunately this will only help a bit. For a little perspective, our region is estimated to need over 300% of an average rainfall year to get back to average precipitation levels. The main reservoirs throughout the State of California are between 5%-50% of their historical average and all are significantly less than 30% of capacity.

La Verne has always been an environmentally responsible community, as demonstrated by cooperation in reducing water consumption through droughts in the past. This drought has been no exception; our community achieved between 27-36% reductions in consumption from 2013 levels between May-October of this year. Unfortunately, complacency set in during the cooler month of November, where we only saved 9%, far below our state mandate of 32%. Remember that we're not out of the drought yet and probably won't be for some time. Please continue to save water as you did throughout the summer, we know we can do it!

CITY OF LA VERNE TURF REMOVAL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT BAGSTER REBATE PROGRAM REMINDER

Going into the rainy season is the perfect time to consider removing your lawn and planting a drought tolerant garden instead. The City of La Verne is still offering \$1.50 per square foot for turf removal. The program has a maximum rebate of \$2,000 per site. A \$35 rebate for using a Waste Management Bagster to help reduce the cost of a turf removal conversion is also still available. Dumping rates will be the responsibility of the customer. Please visit the water conservation rebate section of the website at <http://www.ci.la-verne.ca.us/index.php/services/environmental-programs/water-conservation-new/rebate-information> for more details.

CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE TRAINING

Please join us for a FREE waterwise gardening class to learn how to use a holistic approach to gardening, build a living soil sponge, rethink your site, putting the right plant in the right place, using rainwater as a resource and managing irrigation in your yard. We will be awarding raffle prizes and enjoying breakfast together at Three Valleys Municipal Water District on January 16th, 2016 from 8:30am-11:30am. Please RSVP to cdechaine@tvmwd.com or by calling 909-621-5568. Hope to see you there!

El Niño, Now is the time to prepare!

IN AN EMERGENCY...

- Be prepared to leave immediately and make sure your car's gas tank is full if an emergency evacuation is ordered. Have alternate evacuation routes out of your neighborhood.
- Check on neighbors who may require special assistance, especially senior citizens, persons with disabilities and minors who are home alone.
- Make sure pets are indoors or have safe cover.
- Stay away from storm drain channels and any flooded areas.
- If you must drive, be cautious and allow extra time for travel. California law requires that headlights must be turned on whenever windshield wipers are in use.
- If you are driving and see flooded roads ahead, turn around. About 80 percent of all flood-related deaths occur when drivers try to navigate flowing water.
- Stay home if possible until the weather situation improves. Some roads may be impassable due to fallen trees and/or downed power lines.
- Stay clear of downed power lines and anything touching them. Always assume that a power line is live and hazardous. Downed cable and telephone wires can also be hazardous.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency.....	911	Water Customer Service.....	(909) 596-8744
City of La Verne Police Department...	(909) 596-1913	Southern California Edison.....	(800) 684-8123
Fire Department.....	(909) 596-5991	Southern California Gas Company....	(800) 427-2200
Public Works.....	(909) 596-8741	Waste Management.....	(909) 599-1274

SANDBAGS

Free sandbags and sand are available at the following locations:
Fire Station 1-2061 Third Street

Fire Station 3-5100 Esperanza Drive

The fire stations are open 24 hours a day, should you have an emergency and require sandbags. The bags are not prefilled. Residents will have to fill the sandbags with the available sand. It is suggested to bring your own shovel to avoid having to wait. Free sandbag supplies are limited. Residents may purchase additional sandbags at Orchard Supply Hardware, Home Depot and Lowes.

