

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation as a Way of Life

The past few months saw exceptionally high precipitation levels that led to improvements in the drought across the state. La Verne's rainfall this season, measured near Puddingstone Dam from October 2016 to April 2017 was 22.6 inches. La Verne's average rainfall is about 17.4 inches, rainfall last year was about 11.5 inches, and during the worst year from October 2013 September 2014 it was about 5.9 inches. Statewide water conservation allowed La Verne residents to avoid the worst effects of the drought. Water conservation must continue to be practiced as a way of life in Southern California to better prepare for the effects of future droughts.

The drought will still have lingering effects for many years such as lowered groundwater levels and challenged tree health. Current climate projections also predict that droughts will continue to grow more intense and frequent. Rainstorms meanwhile will grow less frequent and more sudden, causing an increased risk of flooding. The combination of higher temperatures, less rain, and lower snowpack will continue to strain water supplies. La Verne relies on infrastructure such as dams, aqueducts and canals to move water from north to south and will continue to invest in preserving this infrastructure. California will need the help of all residents and businesses to continue to see conservation as a way of life. For now though, at least, the risk of widespread water shortage across the state is over. Considering this, on April 7th Governor Brown rescinded the statewide drought state of emergency that had been in effect since January 2014.

Water conservation, however, is not over and will continue to be vital. Water agencies will develop plans to address future droughts, report total water use to the state, control water loss, ban wasteful practices, and continue to educate on water conservation. Agricultural and industrial water users will most likely be required to make long term investments in water saving practices and technologies. Residents will be asked to treat water conservation as a California way of life. This can be done by avoiding practices that will waste water such as washing vehicles without a shutoff nozzle on hoses or not monitoring sprinkler systems for overspray. Together these strategies should help Southern California and La Verne react more quickly and effectively to future droughts and make transitions from drought to deluge less dramatic.

La Verne Smart Gardening Event

LA County is offering a Beginner Gardening Workshop in La Verne. Beginner workshops teach you about water wise gardening, composting, and grasscycling. The workshop is on 6/3/2017 from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm at the La Verne Community Center, 3640 D St, La Verne, CA, 91750.

West Covina and Pomona Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection events in West Covina on May 20, 2017 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 Sunset Avenue, West Covina, CA , 91793 **AND** in Pomona on June, 24, 2017 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the LA County Fair Hotel & Exposition Complex along White Ave (enter through Gate 9- Area 4), Pomona, CA, 91769. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to these events, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at www.888cleanla.com.

