

PIPPES

BETWEEN THE

Vallecitos Board Approves Refunding almost \$1.6 Million to Existing Water Customers

At its February 25, 2021, Board meeting, the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) Board of Directors announced a plan to distribute a refund of \$44.4 million to its 24 member agencies across the region after receiving a check for that amount from the Los Angeles-based Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to pay legal damages and interest. The funds were directed to be allocated based on the water purchases made by the Member Agencies during the 2011 through 2014 time period. Vallecitos' share of the award was determined to be \$1,590,623.74. CWA wire transferred the funds to Vallecitos on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

The Vallecitos Water District's Board of Directors voted on April 7, 2021, to make one-time refunds, as a credit to bills to Vallecitos water customers' of record as of April 7, 2021, by meter size. Refunds for an average residential customer with a meter size of less than one inch are expected to be around \$55.00. Customers with one inch and larger meters will receive a proportionally larger refund.

Vallecitos customers that are sewer only customers, will not receive a financial refund. Further, certain multi-family residential properties (such as apartment buildings) or commercial properties (such as strip malls) with only one meter, will only receive one refund credit to the account holder of record. Tenants, whether residential or commercial, that do not receive a direct water bill from the Vallecitos Water District, will not receive a financial refund from the District.

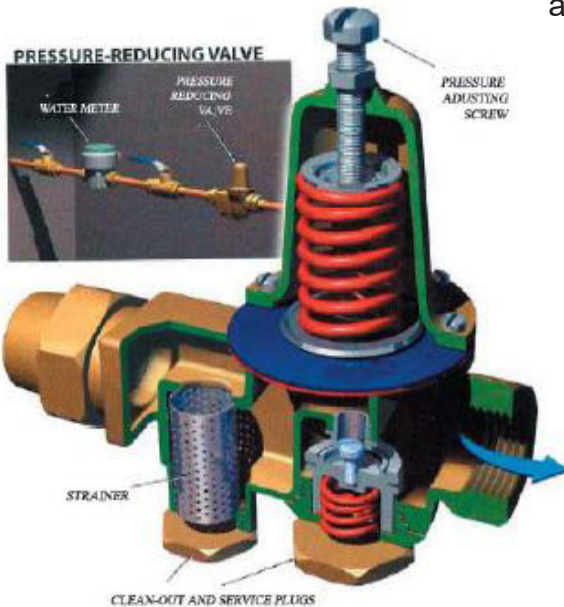
Additional information about the CWA lawsuit can be found here: <http://bit.ly/MWDrefund>. Additional information about Vallecitos effort to return funds to Vallecitos water customers can be found on our website: www.vwd.org.



Household Water Pressure Regulators

Q: What is the function of a pressure regulator?

A: A household water pressure regulator reduces the water pressure from the public water main to a pressure that is usable by the customer and compatible with normal household plumbing and fixtures. It also prevents pressure surges from entering the household plumbing from the public main. High water pressure can result in dripping faucets and water pipes, and it can damage appliances.



Q: How does a pressure regulator work?

A: A pressure regulator is a spring-loaded valve that regulates pressure on the downstream (house) side of the valve. Altering the degree of spring compression changes the downstream pressure.

Q: Who is responsible for installing and maintaining the pressure regulator?

A: The property owner is responsible for installing and maintaining the pressure regulator.

Q: Where should the pressure regulator be installed?

A: On new installations, the pressure regulator is usually installed downstream, (on the house side) of the water meter, near the house.

Q: How do I know if the pressure regulator is working?

A: There are a few ways to ensure proper regulator operation. One option is installing a gauge on both sides of the regulator. If the upstream reads higher than the downstream house side gauge, then the regulator is working properly. If there are no gauges, you might notice symptoms of pressure malfunction, which include “clanging” or “rattling” of pipes when plumbing fixtures are in use.

Q: Can I adjust and repair my pressure regulator?

A: Yes. A homeowner or plumber can accomplish this by consulting the pressure regulator manufacturer’s instructions. The adjustment mechanism is usually a screw on top of the regulator. Turning this screw changes the degree of spring compression. Generally, turning the screw clockwise increases house water pressure and turning the screw counter-clockwise reduces house pressure. Repair kits for rebuilding pressure regulators are usually available from the manufacturer. The assistance of a licensed plumber for pressure regulator installation and maintenance is recommended.

Q: To what pressure should I adjust my pressure regulator?

A: Most homeowners set their pressure at approximately 50 pounds per square inch (psi), but it’s mostly a matter of owner preference. However, lower settings will help conserve water and the life of plumbing fixtures.

Q: Are pressure regulators required?

A: Yes, Section 608.2 Excessive Water Pressure of the Uniform Plumbing Code requires pressure regulators with a strainer whenever the static water pressure from the supply piping exceeds 80 psi. They are especially valuable in controlling surges that may occur in the public supply.

Vallecitos Wins Two Awards for Innovative Use of Technology

The Vallecitos Water District (VWD) recently received two awards for its innovative use of technology to reduce algae blooms at Mahr Reservoir. VWD received the “Excellence in Action” national award from the WaterReuse Association and the “Innovation and Resiliency” state award from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

VWD is known for its sustainable practices in water and wastewater treatment processes, without any compromise in water quality. VWD is now using a new ultrasound technology to address water quality at the Stanley A. Mahr Reservoir with a reduced need for chemical treatment.

Mahr Reservoir was completed in 1981. Originally called La Costa Storage No. 1 Dam and Reservoir, it was renamed after VWD’s original founder, 35-year board member Stanley A. Mahr. It stores up to 54-million gallons of reclaimed water to be used later for irrigation. VWD has contracts with the City of Carlsbad and Olivenhain Municipal Water District to provide water as needed, as much as five million gallons of recycled water daily.

Because the reservoir’s location receives intense sunlight with little rain, algal blooms can occur in the nutrient-rich recycled water. The most common method of treating algal blooms is with chemicals. They are costly and labor-intensive to apply. VWD instead uses technology developed by the international company LG Sonic, which provides a complete overview of the water quality allowing swift identification and treatment of algal blooms.



Every ten minutes, the LG Sonic buoy in the Mahr Reservoir measures and monitors green and blue-green algae population, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature. The data is collected in real time and uploaded to a web-based software. The software uses the data to predict algal blooms three to ten days in advance.

The LG Sonic buoy can create a sound barrier in the top water layer, which affects the buoyancy of the algae, preventing it from rising where it can absorb sunlight for photosynthesis to grow. Without sunlight and nutrients, algae cells sink to deeper water where they degrade due to natural bacteria and do not release toxins into the water. With overall algae levels reduced by this technology, the need for chemical treatment is also reduced, allowing the Vallecitos Water District to provide high quality reclaimed water to its customers. LG Sonic’s specific low-power ultrasonic transmitters emit signals which are not harmful to people, fish, plants, or other wildlife. To see video go to <https://www.vwd.org/about-us/the-work-we-do>.





201 Vallecitos de Oro
 San Marcos, CA 92069
 (760) 744-0460
www.vwd.org



Between the Pipes is a publication of information and interest to Vallecitos water and sewer customers. If you receive water or sewer services from another district, please disregard any information that does not apply to you.

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Management Staff

Glenn Pruium, General Manager
 Rhondi Emmanuel, Administrative Services Manager
 Ed Pedrazzi, Operations and Maintenance Manager
 James Gumpel, District Engineer
 Wes Owen, Finance Manager

Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus and Executive Order N-29-20, VWD will hold future meetings via teleconferencing. The public is encouraged to watch or listen to the meeting from their homes and observe the meeting electronically or listen in by phone. The District’s Board meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

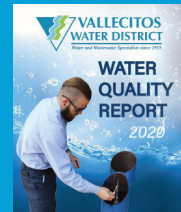
To provide public comments prior to the meeting, submit comments via e-mail at PublicComment@VWD.org up to 90 minutes in advance of the meeting. Comments received are handled by the Clerk of the Board of Directors as if submitted in person. All written comments that are received at least 90 minutes before the meeting will be provided to the Board, and a record of the receipt of comment will be noted during the meeting. To comment during the meeting or to watch or listen to the live meeting, go to www.vwd.org/meetings.

Postal Customer

“Like us” on Facebook or follow us on Twitter
 @vallecitoswater

2020 Water Quality/Consumer Confidence Report

The 2020 Water Quality Report will be available online June 30, 2021, at www.vwd.org/waterquality. The report will list the more than 200 compounds tested for throughout the year and the results. Tested water from Vallecitos consistently meets or exceeds all drinking water standards. To request a hard copy of the report, call us at (760) 744-0460.



Speakers Bureau

The wet and wonderful world of water can be slippery to understand, but it doesn’t have to be. Get a firm grasp on water, wastewater, and issues related to their services through Vallecitos Water District’s Speakers Bureau.

Let a member from the District’s knowledgeable staff or Board of Directors enlighten your group, class, club or association on a wide variety of topics. Call (760) 744-0460 Ext. 314 to schedule an event.

