

Vallecitos Board Moves to Voluntary Drought Level 1

Effective June 10, 2023, the Vallecitos Water District's Board of Directors voted to rescind the mandatory drought restrictions under its "Level 2 – Drought Alert" and move to voluntary conservation measures under its "Level 1 – Drought Watch," thereby ending restrictions on outdoor watering. Vallecitos customers will be able to irrigate any day of the week, with no limit on the number of watering days.

California's wet and wintry start to the year has resulted in the deepest snowpack recorded in more than 70 years. State officials announced the record snowpack on April 3, 2023, at their fourth snow survey of the season. The surveys are conducted monthly each winter at Phillips Station near South Lake Tahoe, with April 1 serving as the benchmark date when the snowpack is typically at its deepest. The statewide snowpack was 237% of normal for the date—the deepest on record since the state's network of snow sensors was established in the mid-1980s.

Upper Colorado Basin snowpack appears promising, and many Colorado reservoirs will have the chance to refill, but the situation is still bleak for the two largest reservoirs in the system, Lake Mead and Lake Powell. The "Level 1 – Drought Watch" reflects the ongoing concern about the Colorado River. Customers should be mindful that the following restrictions are always in effect:

- Irrigating between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Irrigating within 48 hours of a measurable rain event.



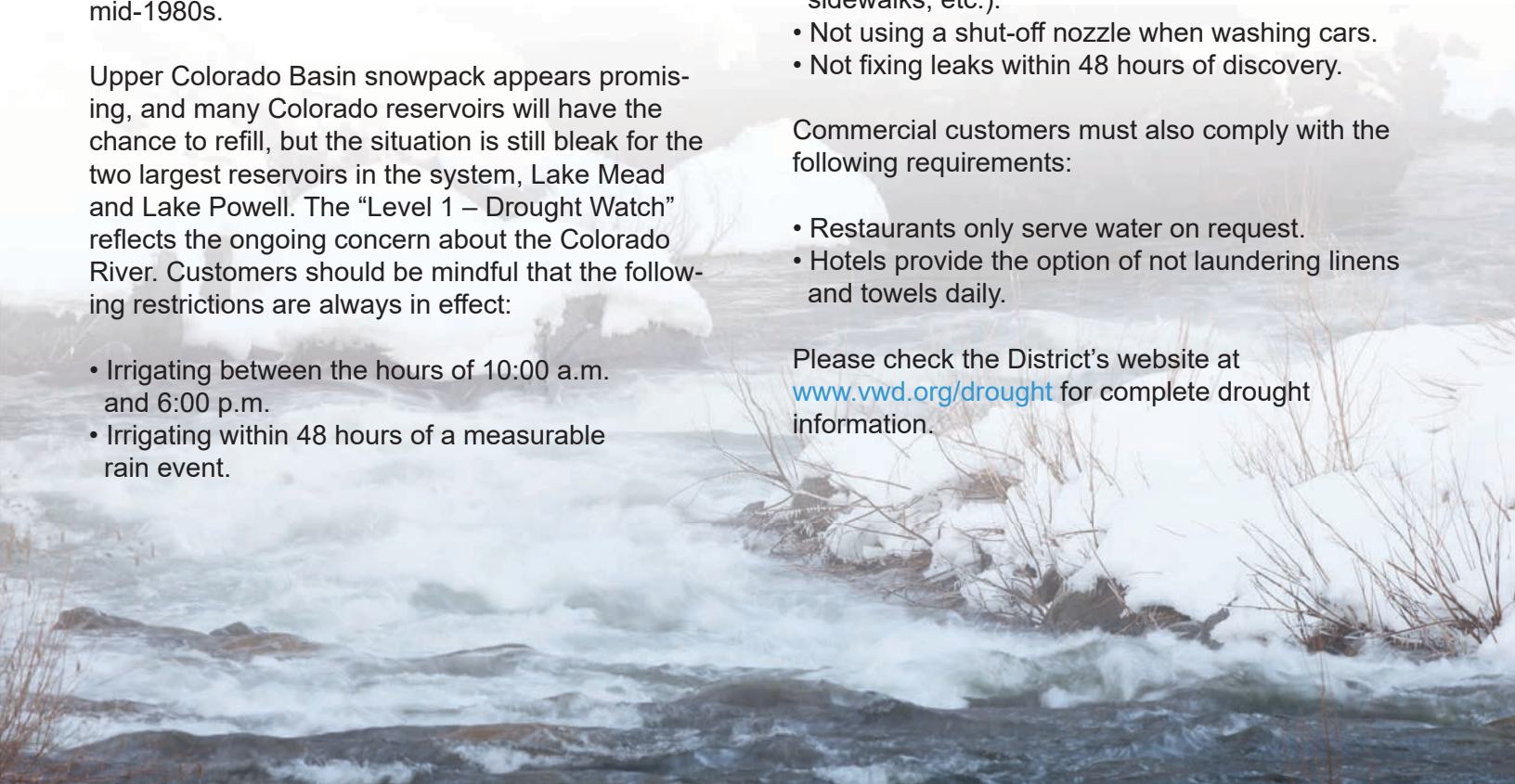
The Department of Water Resources conducts a snow survey in the Northern Sierras.

- Visible signs of runoff when irrigating landscapes.
- Hosing down hardscapes (patios, driveways, sidewalks, etc.).
- Not using a shut-off nozzle when washing cars.
- Not fixing leaks within 48 hours of discovery.

Commercial customers must also comply with the following requirements:

- Restaurants only serve water on request.
- Hotels provide the option of not laundering linens and towels daily.

Please check the District's website at www.vwd.org/drought for complete drought information.



History on Wheels Honors Vallecitos Water District Service

The Vallecitos Water District will honor its history after it moved a vintage service vehicle with a significant story to tell into its lobby.

The District's General Manager Glenn Pruim approved moving the 1946 "Willys" CJ2A Jeep into the lobby of its headquarters building as a museum display, with informational signage and photos depicting its activities.

The 1946 Jeep served the water district for decades, bringing pipe, tools, and an air compressor (to run a jackhammer) to job sites. When this task was no longer feasible, the Jeep became a favorite public outreach tool, appearing in parades and public events in the Vallecitos service area. It made its final appearance at the 2010 San Marcos Christmas Parade, driven by Vallecitos Board Member Margaret E. "Betty" Ferguson, who had an affinity for the Jeep after serving in the Women's U.S. Marine Corps.

In addition to her 35 years of dedicated service to the Vallecitos Water District on its board of directors, Ferguson was the first City Clerk for the City of San Marcos. She was the planning commission secretary and city manager pro tem from 1963 to 1971. Throughout her career, Ferguson served on many city, county, and state boards, task forces, and commissions.



Jeep will be on display in the lobby of our Administrative Offices.



History on wheels rolls into the Vallecitos Water District when a 1946 Jeep becomes a museum display named for longtime board member Betty Ferguson. Ferguson is behind the wheel at the 1997 San Marcos Christmas Parade.

Vallecitos Public Information Representative Lisa Urabe said Ferguson repeatedly demonstrated her ability to work with other board members, customers, and District employees. "Betty was more than just a Vallecitos board member," said Urabe.

In 2013, the Vallecitos Water District adopted a resolution honoring Betty's contribution, diligent efforts, and selfless service to the District.

Several years later, Board President Jim Hernandez and Board Member Betty Evans expressed interest in using the Jeep for public outreach. Public Outreach/Conservation Supervisor Chris Robbins suggested the idea of a museum-type display. He suggested naming the Jeep "Betty" after Ferguson's recent passing to honor her longtime service. "She used to love to drive it," said Robbins.

The Jeep was moved into place over a weekend, with curated signage and information about the colorful history of "Betty" and its beloved namesake. It will be on public display during business hours. The District will host a dedication ceremony for both Betty Ferguson and the 1946 Jeep on June 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the District's offices located at 201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos. The public is invited to attend the event.

SDCWA helping Low-Income Customers With Water Efficiency

The San Diego County Water Authority has secured \$3 million in grant funds to install water-efficient toilets and smart irrigation controllers in underrepresented communities across the region.

The Water Authority will use the money to install 7,300 high-efficiency toilets and smart irrigation controllers covering about 4,000 locations, saving more than 6,000 acre-feet of water and helping enhance water efficiency and affordability for vulnerable customers.

This program is designed to help residents and multi-family property owners conserve water and save on utility bills. The direct-install program conserves water by replacing inefficient models through professional installation at no cost to participants. The toilets can reduce water use up to 60 percent.

The initiative also includes installing smart irrigation controllers at no cost and providing education on outdoor water-use efficiency.

To apply go to <https://www.synergycompanies.com/no-cost-programs#SDCWA> or call (800) 818-4298.

San Diego County Water Authority's INCOME-QUALIFIED DIRECT INSTALL TOILET PROGRAM

Program Overview
Income-qualified customers can get free toilets for their homes with San Diego County Water Authority's Direct Install Toilet Program. This program is designed to help residents and multi-family property owners conserve water and save on utility bills.
This program reduces water use by replacing older toilets with high-efficiency toilets. Installation is done by a professional, licensed contractor.
Eligible participants can also upgrade to weather-based irrigation controllers that save water by automatically adjusting irrigation based on the weather.

Eligibility Criteria
1. Live in the Water Authority's service area.
2. Meet income or program requirements.

Program Details & Application
www.synergycompanies.com/utility-programs/sdcwa-dip
(888) 272-8349
More water-use efficiency resources and rebates at
www.WaterSmartSD.org

WHY UPGRADE?
Toilets account for about 30% of the water used in homes.
Premium high-efficiency toilets use almost 50% less water and flush just as efficiently.
One running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons an hour, enough water to fill a pool in 4 days.

Check out the Direct Install Program Youtube video for more information and details: <https://youtu.be/w6tv-XpTZ8I>

California Water Environment Association Awards for Vallecitos



Dale Austin, Senior Pump and Motor Technician
Mechanical Technician Person of the Year



Congratulations to the Vallecitos Water District's Collection Crew's Second Place Statewide Award for Collections Systems and Dale Austin for his First Place Statewide Award for Mechanical Technician Person of the Year.





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 (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 Pruiem, General Manager
 James Gumpel, Assistant General Manager
 Ed Pedrazzi, Operations and Maintenance Manager
 Wes Owen, Chief Financial Officer
 Jason Hubbard, District Engineer

The public is welcome to attend the Vallecitos Board Meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Administration building—201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos.

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 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



Help Vallecitos Keep your Account Accurate and Up-to-Date

It’s important to keep your Vallecitos account up-to-date. In case of emergencies, Vallecitos may need to contact you about important water and wastewater events in your neighborhood. Many customers have old, outdated, and even cancelled land (telephone) lines on their account.

We can’t reach out to you if we don’t have accurate information. Please take the time to call us at (760) 744-0460 to update your preferred phone number, business phone number and e-mail address.

Additionally, Union Bank will transition to US Bank on May 30, 2023. Customers may need to update their routing numbers and bank account numbers.

