



NEWS RELEASE

DATE: April 23, 2009
CONTACT: Mary Ann Melleby
PHONE: (909) 267-2165
e-mail: mmelleby@mvwd.org

Monte Vista Water District Declares Stage II Water Supply Shortage Mandatory Water Use Restrictions Now in Effect

MONTCLAIR, CA . . . Due to continuing drought conditions and reductions in imported water supplies, Monte Vista Water District board of directors has declared a "Stage II Water Supply Shortage" condition.

The district had been under a Stage I condition since last October which called for customers to voluntarily reduce water use by following District-recommended conservation best practices.

"We have been communicating with our customers for the past year and a half about the need to use water efficiently, and they have responded very well," said Sandra Rose, president of the board of directors. "We have seen a 12 percent reduction in water demand during the past year, and we will need to sustain that reduction and achieve even more savings this summer," she said.

"Our imported water supplies from northern California continue to be reduced," explained Rose, referring to the recent water allocation plan implemented by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reducing water supply to its members by 10 percent. Monte Vista Water District obtains about 50 percent of its water supply from imported water and 50 percent from its eight local groundwater wells. Two new wells will be operational by May 1.

Rose explained that imported water will continue to be available when needed, however, if the District exceeds its allocated amount, the cost increases dramatically. “Exceeding our allocation would be a budgetary hardship that would have to be passed along to our customers in the form of increased rates and fees,” she said. “Achieving desired conservation will help us avoid using the extremely expensive water.”

Provisions of the Stage II Water Supply Shortage include mandatory water use restrictions for Monte Vista Water District customers that focus on outdoor water use.

Prohibited water uses include:

Watering landscapes during daytime hours between 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Exceptions: hand-watering, drip irrigation, new grass or plants, system maintenance, nurseries

Excessive runoff from landscape irrigation

Hosing or washing paved surfaces (sidewalks, patios, parking areas)

Failure to repair leaks within 48 hours of discovery

Washing motor vehicles without using a hand-held bucket and hose equipped with shut-off nozzle

Serving water at restaurants unless requested to do so

Using decorative water features unless water is re-circulated

Customers with dedicated landscape meters are required to reduce their consumption by 10 percent or develop and implement a water budget. Water used for dust control and construction purposes must have a usage plan approved by district officials.

Penalties for violations consist of two written notices, a \$50 fine for the third violation; \$100 fine for the fourth violation; and \$150 and a flow restrictor for the fifth violation.

“Monte Vista Water District is very appreciative of our customers who have reduced their water use over the past year. We encourage them to keep using water as efficiently as possible,” said Rose. “The water use restrictions will serve as a tool to educate those customers who might not be aware of the

seriousness of our water supply situation and to offer ways they can use water more efficiently, particularly for outdoor watering, which consumes about 60 percent of a typical inland southern California household's water usage.

For more information, access the District's website at www.mvwd.org or call (909) 267-2130.

Monte Vista Water District provides retail and wholesale water services to a population of over 134,000 in the communities of Montclair, Chino Hills, and portions of Chino.