



District News

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Three Valleys Announces Water Shortage Contingency Plan-Level 5 in its State Water Project Constrained Areas

Claremont, CA — The Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) board voted yesterday to move to a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) - Level 5 in its State Water Project (SWP) constrained areas, urging up to a 50% reduction in water use in these particular areas.

The TVMWD board previously declared in November 2021 a Shortage Level 2, calling for up to a 20% reduction in water use in its entire service area. TVMWD delivers approximately 60,000 acre-feet of imported water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). TVMWD's Miramar Water Treatment Plant in Claremont receives 100% of its imported water from the SWP, approximately 20,000 acre feet of water per year. The remaining two-thirds of the imported water delivered by TVMWD is received from MWD through its Colorado River supplies.

After a third consecutive year of exceptional drought, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced last month a reduction in the SWP allocation to five percent. Subsequently, DWR issued requirements to provide additional water to meet human health and safety needs for the agencies that are solely dependent on the SWP supplies if the agencies were to implement robust conservation efforts with mandatory requirements. Local agencies will be challenged to meet demands in the constrained areas that can only receive SWP supplies and do not have connections to the Colorado River supply. The constrained area of TVMWD includes the cities of Claremont and La Verne.

Governor Gavin Newsom has called upon each urban water supplier, per California Water Code section 10632, to adopt shortage levels between twenty and thirty percent based on local conditions.

Agencies that currently receive SWP supplies at connections within the constrained SWP Dependent Area must implement and enforce a restriction on outdoor watering of no more than one day per week. Hand watering of trees would be exempt from the one-day-per-week restriction, along with drip irrigation systems and established fire hazard zones. MWD, the largest wholesale supplier of SWP water in the region, announced that if an agency either does not submit an acceptable plan to limit outdoor watering or if it inadequately enforces the plan, a penalty of up to \$2,000 per acre-foot shall be assessed on all SWP supplies delivered to that non-compliant agency. However, agencies can avoid these outdoor watering restrictions and penalties by taking sufficient action to entirely eliminate its use of SWP supplies and switching to either local supplies or Colorado River supplies.

“This extreme reduction in our Northern California supplies means we all must increase our conservation efforts and cutbacks in water use. I am pleased to say this message has been aggressively acted upon by the retail member agencies we serve,” stated Matthew Litchfield, General Manager for TVMWD.

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In 1950, Pomona Valley Municipal Water District (PVMWD) was formed under State law for the purpose of annexing to the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), thereby entitling the area to receive water imported to the region. The district changed its name to Three Valleys Municipal Water District in 1981.

TVMWD, a water resources management agency is governed by an elected Board of seven officials and covers approximately 133 square miles. The present population is about 515,000. Since its formation, the Three Valleys Municipal Water District has installed some 37,000 feet of pipeline and delivered more than 150 billion gallons of water.