



NEWS FROM:

**Los Angeles County
Waterworks Districts**

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For Immediate Release:

LA County Waterworks Teams Up with The Home Depot® on Water Conservation Education Program in the Antelope Valley

Campaign Launches a Native Plant Nursery at Lancaster Home Depot on First Day of Summer

ANTELOPE VALLEY—Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 (District) is partnering with The Home Depot on a new public education program aimed at reducing outdoor and indoor water usage in the Antelope Valley and other service areas. The program and partnership kicked off at an event on Thursday, June 21—the first day of summer—at Home Depot's Lancaster store and included outdoor water conservation tips and showcased the new native plants section of the nursery, along with highlighting the benefits of native plants.

Southern California has experienced its driest year since record-keeping began in 1872. The lack of rainfall has hindered the time-honored blooming of California poppies and, of greater consequence, increased the risk of brush fires.

"Now that it's officially summer, saving water should be on every Antelope Valley resident's mind," says Melinda Barrett, Water Conservation Program Manager with the District. "Unknowingly, people can waste hundreds of gallons a day. We are letting them know about simple things they can do in their own homes and yards to save water and money."

Such easy and cost-effective changes include:

- installing new washers in your faucets;
- fixing leaks indoors and out;
- adjusting sprinkler heads so they water the yard and plants, not the sidewalk;
- fixing tilted or broken sprinklers;
- planting native plants;
- replacing toilet tank “flappers.”

The Districts’ water conservation campaign will employ grassroots outreach methods in addition to an advertising campaign that will include radio, television, billboard and print advertising, as well as more interactive measures such as free water use surveys.

Customers can request a water audit by calling (888)987-9473 and a District representative will visit the home to identify areas where water is being wasted, provide a customized outdoor watering schedule and evaluate what each household can do to save water and bring water bills down. These surveys help people uncover sources of waste they never knew existed in their own homes.

“Water is vital to all aspects of our quality of life here in the Valley and we have a responsibility to make every drop count,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich. “LA County Waterworks has been instrumental in helping to educate residents that they can save water and money through simple conservation practices.”

The launch also featured the unveiling of The Home Depot Lancaster’s new addition to their nursery: a section devoted solely to native plants. Utilizing California native plants is a smart alternative for Antelope Valley residents who want to have a beautiful garden and save

water and money. These plants—such as Juniper, Yuccas, and Sages—are already growing in their native environment and are used to the drier conditions. Gardening experts will be on hand at The Home Depot to assist attendees in finding just the right native plants to suit their needs. A native plant section will be added at the Palmdale Home Depot as well.

In April, Home Depot launched Eco Options, a program that identifies products that have less of an impact on the environment including water-saving devices, organic fertilizer and lawn food, hose nozzles, recycled rubber hoses and drip irrigation systems.

“The Home Depot wants to remind homeowners that as the demand for water increases in the hotter months, there are efficient ways to water thirsty lawns and gardens, as well as techniques and products to conserve water at home,” asserts Damon Greer, Lancaster Home Depot Store Manager. “Through our Eco Options signage and this upcoming event, we are pleased to participate with LA County Waterworks to raise conservation awareness in Antelope Valley.”

For more tips on water conservation or to sign up to have a water-use expert visit your home with tips and free water-saving devices, visit Waterworks District 40 at www.lacwaterworks.org.

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