



**NEWS FROM:**

**Los Angeles County  
Waterworks Districts**

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For Immediate Release:

## **LA COUNTY WATERWORKS ASKS CUSTOMERS NOT TO WATER THEIR LAWNS MAY 9 AND 10**

*A temporary disruption in supply means customers should limit use.*

ANTELOPE VALLEY (May 3) – Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, is asking its customers not to water their lawns and to conserve water on Wednesday, May 9 and Thursday, May 10. The District's water supply will be significantly reduced on these days due to a complete shutdown of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency's (AVEK) Quartz Hill Water Treatment Plant for planned upgrades.

"It's important that customers limit their water use during this two-day period when we won't be receiving water from AVEK," says Melinda Barrett, Water Conservation Program Manager with the District. "We'll be relying on our wells and storage tanks to meet water demand. Up to 80 percent of residential water is used for outdoor purposes, so customers can help ensure that there is enough water for everyone's basic needs by eliminating non-essential use for sprinklers, washing cars, or filling pools or spas."

Construction is ongoing at the Quartz Hill Treatment Plant and future shutdowns can be expected. These temporary outages emphasize how vulnerable Antelope Valley water supplies can be. The District encourages Valley residents to start conserving now, months ahead of the hot, dry summer. "So far this rainy season, we have just over 3 inches of rainfall in Los Angeles County," said Barrett. "The normal amount is 15 inches of rain, so we're on

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our way to having a record-breaking dry year. In the Antelope Valley we've only had 1 inch of rain instead of our typical 8 inches.”

In addition to not watering their lawns on Wednesday and Thursday, residents can conserve water every day by taking the following simple steps:

1. **Adjust your sprinklers.** Most timers can be programmed for two shorter daily sessions rather than one long one – this allows the water to seep into the ground and prevents it from running off into the streets and storm drains.
2. **Check your system.** Do a weekly check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and replace them right away. Make sure you're watering your yard and not the driveway or sidewalk.
3. **Plant native species or drought-tolerant plants.** Many of the lawns and plants we use aren't intended for a dry climate and use a lot of water.
4. **Use a broom instead of a hose.** Sweeping up rather than hosing off leaves or grass clippings not only saves water, but putting them into a green yard waste recycling container saves landfill space as well.
5. **Get an adjustable hose nozzle** for outdoor use so you can adjust the spray to meet your needs.

For more information about how to save water, the County recommends residents contact their water company. Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts customers can visit <http://lacwaterworks.org/> to learn more or to sign up to have a water-use expert visit their home with tips and free water-saving devices.

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