



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# NEWS RELEASE

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## RESIDENTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES ASKED TO REDUCE WATER USE DURING TREATMENT PLANT SHUTDOWN

***Upgrades to major water treatment plant to begin March 18, affecting imported supplies for up to 1.7 million consumers***

Consumers in Los Angeles County foothill communities stretching from La Crescenta to Claremont are requested to reduce their water use—including refraining from outdoor watering—while a major water treatment plant is taken out of service for 10 days beginning Friday, March 18.

Officials from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California joined with local cities as well as area wholesale and retail water agencies in making the water-saving request today as the district prepares to upgrade its F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne. The outage is scheduled to last until March 28.

Consumers—particularly in Diamond Bar, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena and San Dimas as well as the communities of Altadena, Rowland Heights and Walnut—are asked to contact their local water supplier to determine water-use restrictions for their area.

Residents can visit [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com) and [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for the latest information on the planned shutdown as well as water-saving tips. During the shutdown, regular updates on the plant upgrade work will be posted on the websites.

The Weymouth plant is one of five treatment facilities operated by Metropolitan and is an imported drinking water source for 1.7 million people in the affected area. Metropolitan member agencies served by the plant are the cities of Pasadena and San Marino as well as Foothill Municipal Water District, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and Three Valleys Municipal Water District.

In preparation for the shutdown, the Pasadena City Council has declared a Level 4 water shortage during the outage. The action bans outdoor watering and requires other water-use restrictions throughout the city, which faces up to a 40 percent supply shortage.

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“It's a very serious but surmountable problem,” said Phyllis Currie, Pasadena Water and Power general manager. “We're confident our customers will pull together on this issue, turn off sprinklers and help stretch our limited supply for what's truly essential.”

Although some local agencies have access to groundwater, stored reservoir supplies and other sources to meet retail demands during the shutdown, other agencies will need residents and businesses to conserve water and stretch available supplies, said Nina Jazmadarian, general manager of Foothill MWD, which serves La Cañada Flintridge and portions of Glendale as well as the communities of Altadena, Montrose and La Crescenta.

“With Weymouth’s supplies temporarily interrupted, some areas have a greater need for conservation measures to ensure there are adequate supplies. Most cities and water agencies in the affected areas will either seek voluntary or, in some cases, mandatory water-use reductions during the outage,” Jazmadarian said.

Richard Hansen, Three Valleys MWD general manager, said conservation by residents and businesses is essential to help complete the work without additional water service impacts. Three Valleys’ service area includes the cities of Azusa, Claremont, Covina, Diamond Bar, Glendora, Industry, La Verne, Pomona, San Dimas, Walnut and West Covina as well as Charter Oak, Covina Hills, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights and South San Jose Hills.

“This is a critical upgrade as the spring season commences. We all need to do our part to reduce water use while the plant is out of service,” Hansen said.

Debra C. Man, Metropolitan’s chief operating officer and assistant general manager, said the district routinely schedules shutdowns of its facilities in the winter and early spring, when temperatures usually are cooler and demands are lower, to complete inspections and perform maintenance and upgrades with the least impact on consumers.

The Weymouth plant treats a blend of waters from the district’s Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project for the central area of Metropolitan’s distribution system. During the shutdown, Metropolitan plans to make needed reliability upgrades at Weymouth, prepare the plant for ozone treatment, and inspect structures that are inaccessible when the plant is in service.

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In preparation for the shutdown, residents and businesses are asked to do their part to ensure reservoirs and local supplies won't be drawn down. Depending on the availability of local supplies, steps include no outdoor watering, hand-washing vehicles, filling swimming pools or spas, and hosing down driveways and sidewalks. (See attached *Shutdown Preparation Tips*)

Other water-saving measures include running only full loads in washing machines and dishwashers, not leaving the tap running when washing dishes, keeping showers to a maximum of 5 minutes and not leaving the water running while brushing your teeth or shaving.

With spring's arrival, gardeners are asked to delay planting new landscaping—which typically requires continual watering to establish plants, shrubs and trees—until after the shutdown. If the weather warms prior to the shutdown, residents may want to deep-root water plants to help keep them healthy. Deep-root watering, however, should be done prior to the shutdown's start.

Residents should be aware that some municipal parks and landscape areas that are irrigated with recycled water will not be impacted by the shutdown.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.*



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*The following are helpful tips for consumers in Los Angeles County foothill communities from La Crescenta to Claremont as the Metropolitan Water District prepares to take a major water treatment plant out of service for 10 days to make upgrades.*

*The shutdown begins Friday, March 18, affecting imported water supplies serving the area. Consumers—particularly in Diamond Bar, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena and San Dimas as well as the communities of Altadena, Rowland Heights and Walnut—are asked to contact their local water supplier to determine water-use restrictions for their area.*

## **THINGS TO DO NOW, BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 18**

### **Beginning Monday, March 14**

- Do not plant new landscaping, which typically requires continual watering to establish plants, shrubs and trees. Delay new plantings until after **March 28**.
- Set mowers for a higher cut than normal. Longer blades of grass help reduce evaporation. Or, avoid mowing altogether.
- Avoid fertilizing lawns and plants prior to the shutdown. Fertilizer encourages growth, which requires more water.
- Have a deep collection dish at the base of house plants. Fill the dish Thursday night, March 17, so plants can draw on that water throughout the week.
- Fill large containers, like trash bins, and use that water for hand watering delicate plants during the week. Remove water from trash bins and other large containers with a bucket to distribute it to sensitive plants.
- Until Thursday, March 17, deep-water trees and shrubs by either setting out soaker hoses or watering with a regular hose on a slow trickle. Water until the soil is soaked to a depth of about 8–12 inches (deeper for trees, more shallow for shrubs). Use a soil probe or a shovel to determine the depth to which the water has percolated.
- Do all dirty laundry before Thursday night and then avoid using the clothes washer during the shutdown.

### **Thursday, March 17**

- Do a normal, thorough watering of lawns, but not more than normal because the extra water will be wasted. Hand-water “hot” or dry spots of lawns.

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### **Friday, March 18**

- Do not water landscapes or lawns. Do not wash cars.
- Set sprinkler timers to the “OFF” position Thursday night.
- Do final fill-ups of any large containers.

### **TIPS DURING SHUTDOWN**

- Take short showers (5-minute max). Soak, turn the water off, soap up, and then turn the water on, wash off. Do not use the warm shower as a sauna.
- Also, put a bucket in the shower to collect the water before the shower warms up. Use this water for plants.
- Use collected water in trash bins or bathtubs to hand-water houseplants and sensitive outdoor plants and those areas of the lawn that may show excessive stress (the hot spots).
- Do not leave water running when washing dishes.
- Run only full loads in washing machine and dishwasher.
- Do not leave water running when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Do not mow your lawns. Minimize the use of your lawn (i.e. playing on it, leaving vehicles on it) to reduce stress on the turf.

For more water-saving tips, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).

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