



La Puente Valley County Water District

*Serving the Community
for Over 85 Years*

Newsletter for the La Puente Valley County Water District Customers (Summer 2010)

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Cost Saving Efforts

Carrying out our mission statement of providing water service to our customers at the most reasonable cost, becomes more challenging each year. The La Puente Valley County Water District Board of Directors and staff continuously look for ways to not only improve our service but to keep costs low as well. The cost to produce water makes up approximately 30% of the District's annual operations and maintenance budget.

The District relies on its wellfield as its primary source of water. Water produced from the wellfield is pumped out of the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. The District has a limited amount of annual production rights in the Basin. In most years we have approximately 1,100 acre feet of right (1 acre foot = 325,851 gallons). This is on average 800 acre feet less than the water the District will actually produce for its customers. The water produced over these rights is subject to a replacement water assessment. Over the last two years the assessment rate has increased 78% and is projected to rise by another 50% by 2012.

Early in 2009, the District purchased 2,000 acre feet of production rights in the basin before the 78% increase in the assessment rate was initiated. This transaction will help stabilize the cost of water for the District over the next few years. The overall cost savings from this transaction is estimated to exceed \$675,000. This equates to approximately \$272 per District customer.

Si usted desea una copia del boletín de noticias en español, favor de comunicarse al (626) 330-2126.

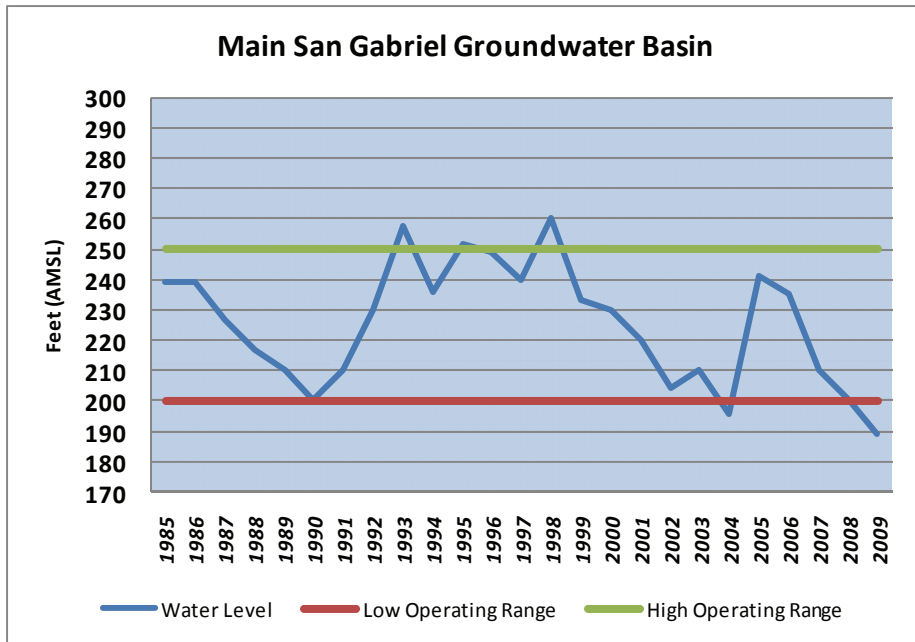
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Is There Still a Water Shortage?

We experienced some welcomed rain this winter along with healthy amounts of snow in our local mountains and in the Sierras. This definitely helped our water supply outlook, however this does not end the State's water shortage. There are many regions still feeling the effects of the drought along with the effects of continued environmental issues restricting water deliveries through the State's water system. The bottom line is Southern California will be facing water supply challenges long into the future. All of us in the region need to step up our efforts in water use efficiency.

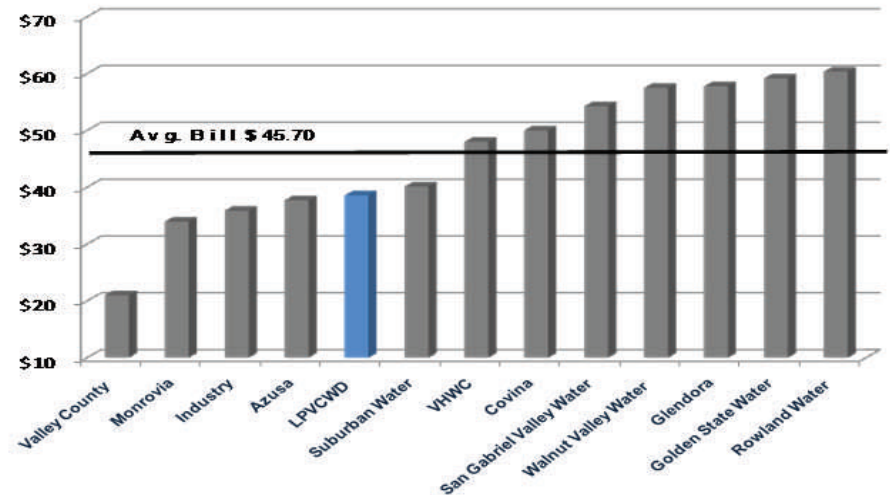
For our District, the effect of the drought is obvious when we take a look at our local groundwater basin levels. Over the last few years imported water for groundwater replenishment has been unavailable. Local dry conditions from 2006 through 2009 and the lack of imported water for groundwater replenishment have resulted in an all time low water level in the basin. Take a look at the twenty five year trend of basin water levels below.



The basin levels are projected to have a modest recovery due to this winters above average precipitation and some recently obtained imported water for replenishment. However, improved water use efficiency and the expanded use of recycled water in the San Gabriel Valley are essential factors in living within the limits of our local water supplies.

How Do Your Rates Compare?

Recently, District staff conducted a survey of water rates and compared twelve local water agencies in the San Gabriel Valley to the District's. Since there are varying charges for service and usage, staff felt the best way to compare was to calculate a bill using the average size meter service and the average customer usage by each agency's rate. Since some agencies bill bi-monthly, like the District, and some monthly, the bills were calculated on a monthly basis for consistency purposes. The figure below shows the results of this comparison.



Based on 18 hcf (hcf=748 gal) of usage a month, the average bill of these local water agencies is \$45.70 a month. The District's average bill is \$38.57, which is 16% below the average.

Every year the District's Board of Directors evaluates the cost of service to determine when and if an increase to water rates is needed. In 2009, the Board decided not to increase rates as planned. As the cost of water continues to increase and to maintain the District's sound financial condition, rates will eventually need to be raised.

The Board of Directors and staff are committed to providing our customers with the highest quality service at the most reasonable cost possible. Your efforts in water use efficiency helps the District reduce the cost of water by avoiding expensive replacement water purchases. To learn more about efficient water use and facts about our District please visit our website.



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