



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 27, 2015

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER 

BY: ZACH MILLER, RECREATION MANAGER 

SUBJECT: WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND UPDATE FROM LAS VIRGINES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

The purpose of this item is to update the City Council on the current efforts the City has taken in collaboration with the Las Virgines Municipal Water District (LVMWD) and our landscape contractor (Merchants Landscape) to conserve water and educate the public on water usage in the City of Agoura Hills. City staff has met with LVMWD on multiple occasions to strategize on how to best conserve water in City-owned parks, facilities, medians, interchanges, and public right of ways.

Currently, the Governor's mandate and LVMWD conservation efforts mostly pertain to the use of potable water. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the City's water use is recycled water, using reclaimed water on all publically maintained areas (parks, medians, interchanges), with the exception of two medians in the City. These medians are located at Thousand Oaks Boulevard and Carell Avenue, and at Canwood Street and Lake Lindero Avenue. The City is taking steps to conserve reclaimed water and potable water wherever possible. This includes using reclaimed water when we hand water trees throughout the City. The City is currently exploring methods to bring reclaimed water to the remaining medians that currently use potable water, or to reduce the amount of water used in these medians by planting drought-tolerant plants and retrofitting to drip or low-emission irrigation systems in these medians.

The City uses the Calsense "smart" irrigation system throughout the City, which measures weather and rainfall and automatically adjusts individual watering times and station lengths based on outdoor conditions. Staff can also monitor each valve and controller and measure the amount of water used in every area of the City, and make necessary corrections as needed. If mainline irrigation pipes break, the system will automatically shut down until a repair has been made to the broken line. The City has a 24-hour or less policy, to repair any broken sprinkler in the City, and most repairs take place within the same day of them being reported. Our landscape contractor inspects and adjusts sprinklers to minimize or eliminate any overwatering or spraying onto sidewalk or hardscaped areas. All watering takes place three days a week or less, after dark, and ends no later than 10a.m. in any park or median, per Water District guidelines.

As needed and necessary, the City will also be considering drought-tolerant plants for areas that need replanting or are newly planted. This has already taken place in front of City Hall and the Library rotunda, the new Recreation and Event Center, and in the Liberty Canyon and Agoura Road intersection. The City will look for other opportunities to plant these types of plants when we are able.

The creek at the Reyes Adobe Historical site has also been temporarily turned off. Although this creek circulates water with a series of pumps, it does need to be occasionally filled due to evaporation or other water loss. The creek will remain dry for the foreseeable future.

Staff will continue to work closely with LVMWD and the City will continue to lead by example when it comes to conservation, education, and its continued commitment to help educate the public on the best ways to manage water during the drought.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the City Council provide direction to staff on other ways they would like to see the City reduce or further conserve water in the City, as it pertains to potable and reclaimed water.