



NEWS RELEASE

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SLV Water District urges customers to reduce water use

What is the single most important thing you can do to save water in this dry year? “Finding and stopping water leaks tops the list,” says Jim Mueller, SLV Water District Manager. “And if you see a leak on the street, please report it right away to the water district. Call 338-2153.”

Also high on the water-saving list: Cutting back on landscape watering, especially lawns, and replacing old toilets with new low-flush models. SLV Water District customers will soon be receiving a list of water saving tips, both for indoors and outdoors, with their water bills.

Even though the SLV Water District has not yet placed restrictions on outdoor watering, the need to conserve water now is real. The volume of streamflow in the San Lorenzo River is less than half of the average for this time of year, and at its lowest since 1994. The SLV Water District’s water supply comes both from mountain creeks and from groundwater wells. Low streamflow requires the District to start taking water from its Olympia wells earlier in the season, more quickly drawing down the underground water supply stored in the aquifers.

Low streamflow also creates problems for local steelhead fisheries, birds and other wildlife, which depend on water for healthy streamside habitat.

The SLV Water District has joined with a county-wide group of water agencies to get the message out about the need to conserve water. The focus of this year’s inter-agency campaign is saving water through landscaping. Gardeners are encouraged to plant California natives, use mulch, install irrigation systems, water early in the day, and carefully monitor sprinklers.

Saving water now helps to ensure an available supply of water for both people and wildlife until the rains start again in the fall.