

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

### **The Drought is Not Over, Please Conserve**

As new federal bills and state guidelines to combat drought formulate, many residents feel they are getting mixed messages regarding the drought. So it should be said plainly, in California and especially Southern California the drought is NOT over and water conservation continues to be one of the most effective ways to combat the risk of water shortage. Conservation must be a new way of life for Californians as the factors of growing population, higher temperatures, and lower rainfall mean that California will be continually battling the availability of water. Every drop conserved counts, but La Verne residents need to keep focused on water conservation and ways to improve their water using habits. Rains in the northern portion of the Sacramento Delta have provided some temporary relief, but rain has been slow to come to Southern California and conservation will remain our most crucial defense. The US Drought Monitor, which tracks drought conditions across the United States, still lists virtually all of Southern and Central California as under 'severe' or 'exceptional' drought, the two highest categories for drought emergencies. In addition, while rainfall in Northern California has been unseasonably prevalent thus far, higher temperatures in the Sierra Nevada Mountains during October and November mean that snowpack is lower than if these rains fell during the colder portions of the year in late December, January, and February. Consistent rainfall during the coldest parts of winter is the only way to maintain a significant snowpack. Without a significant snowpack, water supply could still be an issue as reservoirs are not refilled by melting snow in summer and fall. While all rain is good for parched California, it is too early to say with any certainty how much the drought picture has changed and improving our conservation efforts in the meantime is still critically important.

In regards to new federal bills and state guidelines these will be most effective in limiting the severity of future droughts by increasing water efficiency and dealing with long-term water supply reliability issues. These investments may take many years to be completed and will be serving a higher population. Climate change also means that higher temperatures will create more unpredictable snowpack and precipitation. Conservation is the most cost effective means to controlling how much water we need and helping to address the hard to predict nature of population and climate change. Even as new projects are proposed and built it is important to remember that conservation is a way of life, because our drought issues are likely to be persistent over the coming decades even despite a few possible rainy years.

### **Claremont Beginner Smart Gardening Workshop**

In Claremont, LA County is offering a Beginner Gardening Workshop. Beginner workshops teach you about water wise gardening, composting, and grasscycling. The workshop is on 2/11/2017 from 9:30 am – 11:00 am at the Hughes Community Center, 1700 Danbury Rd, Claremont, CA, 91711

### **Azusa Household Hazardous Waste Event**

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection event in Azusa on January 28, 2017 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Northrop-Grumman Corporation, Corner of West 3rd Street & Zachary Padilla Avenue, 1111 W 3rd St, Azusa, CA, 91702. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to these events, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com).

