

# **CONSERVATION CORNER**

## **July 2014**

### **State Approves Emergency Regulation to Increase Water Conservation**

In response to the ongoing severe drought, on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board approved an emergency regulation to ensure water agencies, their customers and state residents increase water conservation in urban settings or face possible fines or other enforcement. The new conservation regulation is intended to reduce outdoor urban water use. The regulation, adopted by the State Water Board, mandates minimum actions to conserve water supplies both for this year and into 2015. Most Californians use more water outdoors than indoors. For the average household, 50 percent or more of daily water use is for lawns and outdoor landscaping and 9 percent of daily use is spent on overwatering.

All Californians will be expected to stop: washing down driveways and sidewalks; watering of outdoor landscapes that cause excess runoff; using a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle, and using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. The regulation makes an exception for health and safety circumstances.

### **Water Efficiency for Landscaping**

The City of La Verne's voluntary water use restrictions encourage efficient irrigation for landscaping. With the severe drought conditions lingering and the need for water conservation, there is no better time than now to look into developing a drought tolerant yard. Turf accounts for a significant portion of water use in our community and adjusting your watering habits or modifying your landscaping could save significant resources in both money and water. The City is offering a turf removal program which incentivizes La Verne water customers with a rebate of up to \$2 per square foot for turf removal in place of more water efficient landscaping.

The City of La Verne also offers free landscaping classes to residents through its partnership with Three Valleys Metropolitan Water District as well as Mount San Antonio College. These free courses are offered at the La Verne Community Center and other locations throughout the community. For more information about efficient landscaping please go online to [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) or [www.saveourh2o.com](http://www.saveourh2o.com) or call (909) 596-8741 for more information. For the turf removal rebate program, please contact Cindy DeChaine at (909) 621-5568.

