



NEWS RELEASE

DATE: March 12, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SCV Successful in Temporary Irrigation Hiatus
March 4-10 Water Savings Helped as Annual Maintenance on Facilities
at Castaic Lake Completed**

SCV Water received an outstanding public response to its request for customers to refrain from irrigating last week to accommodate annual maintenance on infrastructure at Castaic Lake. The scheduled maintenance briefly made water from Castaic Lake unavailable for use.

"Our community did a great job with increased conservation efforts," said Matt Stone, General Manager of SCV Water. "Homeowners, businesses and large institutional water users were all very cooperative. Water demand was down by an average of more than 31% from the prior week."

SCV Water requested that water users limit outdoor water use and refrain from irrigation March 4-10. Castaic Lake water was temporarily unavailable due to maintenance on Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Foothill Feeder. This annual shutdown insures time for routine maintenance and needed repairs as proactive measures to prolong the life of the infrastructure.

Gary Haggin, Operations and Maintenance Superintendent for SCV Water said, "With the public's help, we were able to maintain a buffer of stored water, just in case a local emergency arose, or if the project took a little longer than expected."

During the shutdown, the SCV was unable to access supplies from Castaic Lake and relied exclusively upon local groundwater and treated imported water already stored at reservoirs throughout the Valley.

"The maintenance is done and customers can resume outdoor irrigation," said Keith Abercrombie, Chief Operating Officer for SCV Water. "However, we encourage a continuing conservation mindset, especially when it comes to outdoor water use."

"The northern part of the state is abnormally dry for this time of year and rainfall is below average," Abercrombie said. "Southern California is also experiencing below-average precipitation, and we are seeing the early stages of drought conditions despite a few winter storms."

Matt Dickens, Resource Conservation Manager for SCV Water said, "During these spring months, most landscape can be irrigated just once or twice a week. Now is a good time to check your irrigation timer settings to ensure optimal operation. Additionally, spring rain showers offer a great opportunity to shut off the sprinklers for a few days to let Mother Nature do the irrigating."

Dickens added that the State of California has permanently prohibited the following water wasting practices: allowing water to run off your property onto sidewalks and gutters; washing down driveways and/or sidewalks; washing a vehicle using a hose without a shut-off nozzle; the use of non-recirculating fountains; and irrigating your landscape during and 48 hours after receiving measurable rain.

“We know customers sometimes wonder why they are still being asked to conserve water when we receive a few winter storms, but the efficient use of water in California is an ongoing priority given the large variability between wet and dry years in the west,” Abercrombie said. “So, in the meantime, we simply want to thank all SCV Water customers for their cooperation and conservation, not only last week, but as a way of life in the Santa Clarita Valley.”

###

About SCV Water:

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is a full-service regional water agency located in the Santa Clarita Valley. SCV Water provides water service to business and residential customers – half from local groundwater supplies and the other half is imported from the State Water Project and other sources.

SCV Water was formed on January 1, 2018 and combines the former service areas of Castaic Lake Water Agency, Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita Water Division and Valencia Water Company. Following a multi-year public engagement process, the agency was formed through Senate Bill 634 authored by Senator Scott Wilk and signed by Governor Jerry Brown on October 15, 2017. SCV Water was formed to improve regional water management, enhance water governance and reduce costs for local ratepayers.

More information can be found at www.YourSCVWater.com

For more information, please contact:

Kathie Martin
Public Information Officer
SCV Water
kmartin@scvwa.org
661-513-1265