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Welcome to **Waves**

Welcome to the first issue of Laguna Beach County Water District's customer newsletter **Waves**.

This bi-monthly publication will keep you informed about significant issues facing the District, introduce you to new programs and services offered, and acquaint you with the workings of the District.

We hope you find this publication both informative and helpful.

Drought far from over

Southern California water agencies hoping for wet winter

Despite record-setting rainfall and snows across the Rocky Mountains, the drought threatening local water supplies is long from over.

How bad is it? According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the drought gripping the West is the most severe in 500 years. In fact, the Colorado River, a major source of imported water for Orange County, is at a level lower today than during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930's.

While the drought continues, the District is asking residents and businesses to implement water use efficiency measures to reduce demand during these challenging times.

Conservation is the most effective, proactive strategy we can employ today to reduce future water demand.

For more information on water use efficiency programs in Orange County log on to www.bewaterwise.com.

Higher rates, program cuts necessary to offset property tax raid

Customers could be facing water rate increases as the District, blindsided by a larger-than-expected state raid on its property tax revenues, faces an \$860,000 cut in its capital improvement budget (CIP).

"Other options include digging into savings, borrowing, delaying capital improvements or curtailing services," says Renae Hinchey, general manager. "Whatever we do, the District faces a two-year fix."

The loss, which represents approximately 30 percent of the

-Continued on back

Set it and forget it



Over watering is a thing of the past

Receive money back when you upgrade to “smart” technology that fully automates landscape watering, based on the weather and water needs of your plants.

Here’s the deal. Receive up to \$240 when you purchase and install a new, state-of-the-art sprinkler timer. This advanced sprinkler control technology automates your landscape watering based on the weather and water

needs of your plants. Smart controllers also let you:

1. Save money by reducing your outdoor water use by up to 25 percent.
2. Advance the health and appearance of your landscape.
3. Protect our environment by reducing runoff.

Call 1-866-846-3725 for details. Rebates are available while funding lasts.

Program cuts, higher rates necessary *Continued from front*

District’s CIP budget, weakens the agency’s ability to fully provide services ranging from water supply planning to repair and maintenance of aging pipelines and facilities.

The District had expected a \$490,000 reduction in property tax revenue this year as part of an agreement between the State and special districts to pay \$350 million over two years in exchange for protection from future state tax grabs. However, late in the legislative process, policy makers exempted fire, hospital and mosquito-abatement districts from that deal, which increased other special district’s share.

Because State officials claim this shift is a two-year bailout, any increase assessed to customers related to the property tax shift would only be for the two-year time period.

Get stress-free for free

Laguna Beach County Water District has taken the work out of making your bi-monthly payment by offering an Auto Pay service.

Just contact customer service at 494-1041 for the required

form, sign it, and send it back to us. You’ll never have to worry about late payment fees because of a missed payment.

You specify the checking or savings account. About ten days after you receive your bill statement, Auto Pay electronically deducts your payment when it’s due. No stamps. No last minute trips to the Post Office. No hassles. And best of all, Auto Pay is free for District customers.



Waves is an in-house publication for the customers of the Laguna Beach County Water District.

Information in this publication is provided to keep customers informed about water related issues and events. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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