

09/10/2014

*For Immediate Release*

September 10, 2014

Contact: Nancy Broschart, 805-223-4378

Lysa Urban, 805-677-3914

### Water Efficient Practices Encouraged in the city of Ventura

The warm, dry summer in Ventura has resulted in dwindling local water supplies and Ventura Water is encouraging customers to increase efforts to stop water waste and use water wisely in all ways. In response to State regulations adopted this summer requiring water providers to enforce water waste restrictions, Ventura Water is launching an educational phase to help customers learn how to avoid wasteful water activities. As specified in the City's existing municipal code, the following are prohibited:

- Sprinklers that spray pavement, such as sidewalks, driveways or streets
- Irrigation water that runs onto pavement, such as sidewalks, driveways or streets
- Leaking irrigation systems or broken sprinklers that are not repaired within 48 hours of discovery
- Using a hose to wash a driveway, sidewalk or other paved surface
- Washing a car without a shutoff nozzle on the hose
- Serving water at a restaurant without being requested by the customer

"Ventura, as a steward of our local water sources, has always responded to the call to save water during drought cycles," said Mayor Cheryl Heitmann. "Even during unusually warm weather, Ventura was able to reduce water use by about 10% in August compared to last year, but we need to continue to work together to reach greater water savings to help stretch our local water supplies."

Residents are asked to be diligent about watching for and repairing leaks to curb water waste. Please talk directly to neighbors or business owners if leaks are identified so repairs can be made quickly. Many people are especially unaware of irrigation problems as systems generally run early in the morning. Alternatively, leaks or water waste activities can be reported online at [www.cityofventura.net/water/reportwaterwaste](http://www.cityofventura.net/water/reportwaterwaste) or by contacting Ventura Water Customer Care at [myvtawater@cityofventura.net](mailto:myvtawater@cityofventura.net) or (805) 667-6500.

To help residential customers find ways to save water, both indoor and outdoors, Ventura Water is now offering free hour-long water surveys. During your appointment, a Water Conservation Specialist will review your water bill with you, teach you how to read a water meter, determine if there is any indoor or outdoor water waste, and share water saving techniques. To schedule a water survey, please contact Ventura Water Customer Care at [myvtawater@cityofventura.net](mailto:myvtawater@cityofventura.net) or (805) 667-6500.

Ventura Water customers are also invited to sign-up for our popular Water Wise classes to learn more about how to use water efficiently outdoors. To register for any of the following classes, visit [www.cityofventura.net/water/landscape](http://www.cityofventura.net/water/landscape).

**Rainwater Harvesting & Laundry-to-Landscape Graywater** – Saturday, September 20 from 10 am to 12 pm

Location: City Sanjon Maintenance Yard

Install a rain barrel, redirect your downspout into your new rain garden, install a laundry-to-landscape system and maintain them all properly.

**Composting and Urban Soils** – Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 10 am to 12 pm

Location: Cornucopia Gardens (Telephone Road & Ramelli Avenue)

Create healthy backyard mulch, use compost and worm castings from your food and yard waste to conserve water, reduce pesticides and revive urban soil.

**Turf Replacement with Water Wise Plants** – Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 10 am to 12 pm

Location: City Sanjon Maintenance Yard

Remove turf naturally, replace it with native or climate-appropriate plants, convert pop-up spray irrigation to drip irrigation, and re-wild your garden habitats to bring back birds, bees and butterflies.

For more information, visit [www.cityofventura.net/water/shortage](http://www.cityofventura.net/water/shortage).

This release can be found on the City of Ventura's website at [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net). ###