



**Class Succulent Garden: Celeste Uribe - \$100 Green Thumb gift card winner**

## Capture Conservation: Photos of Saving Water has its Rewards!

During the summer of 2016, Ventura Water launched Capture Conservation, a photo contest aimed at highlighting the Ventura community's response to the call to save water.

As part of Ventura Water's annual summer awareness campaign, residents were invited to participate and were asked to share photos of how they save water or how the drought has inspired residents to make sacrifices and go above and beyond the call of duty to minimize their water footprint. Over 50 photos were entered!

It was easy to enter. Contestants took a photo that captured their water conservation story and posted the photo to Instagram, Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #keepsavingventura.

Contest winners were awarded the following prizes:

- 5 Deluxe car washes compliments of Final Details
- 4 Golf N' Stuff tickets
- 40 percent off coupon to Patagonia
- 2 tickets to Santa Cruz Island
- \$100 gift card to Green Thumb Nursery

Check out the photo above and below to see two of our photo contest winners in action saving water and Capturing Conservation!

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**Dear Valued Customer,**

We are about to embark upon the holidays where we revel in family and friends joining us at our home for lots of merriment. All of this gathering usually includes us making large, rich meals for everyone to enjoy. So I am giving you a break this month and not talking about how you could save water during the holiday season, which I am sure you will, but how you can be gentle on your pipes.

Here are the do's and don'ts of fats, oils and grease (F.O.G.) or in other words – cooking oils (used in turkey fryers), meat juices (used in gravy), shortening (for pie crusts), dressings, spreads (like cheese), sauces and butter/margarine.

**Don'ts:**

Do not pour F.O.G. down sink drains, garbage disposals or toilets

Never send food scraps down the garbage disposal

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Waterwise Incentive program: Roland Barrio - Car wash winner



Never dispose of F.O.G. outside on the ground or down the storm drain

Never pour hot water and detergent down the drain with grease

**Do's:**

Pour grease into non-recyclable containers and let it harden before disposing in the trash

Before washing, scrape and dry-wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash

Use the sink strainer to catch food items and then empty the strainer into your compost bin or trash

Pour cooking oil into a leak-proof container with a secure top and bring it to one of the City's free Household Hazardous Waste Collection events, [www.cityofventura.net/HHW](http://www.cityofventura.net/HHW).

By following these helpful tips, you are not only protecting the pipes at your home from clogs, but also the City's pipes. Preventing blocked pipes means preventing backups of sewage into your homes or businesses.

Enjoy the holidays with healthy pipes.

Sincerely,

Shana Epstein,  
Ventura Water General  
Manager



Photos from the Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Festival kick-off party. Top left: From the City of Ventura Division of Environmental Sustainability are Joe Yahner, Lars Davenport and Courtney Lindberg with City Manager Mark Watkins and Joe McDermott, city engineer. Top right: Ventura Water GM Shana Epstein and Craig Jones, Ventura Water Management Analyst. Middle left: Some of the Ventura Water Commission members and event guests, left to right: Marian Mann, Parker Mann, Suzanne McCombs, Craig Jones from Ventura Water, Arlene Sedlak and Burton Sedlak. Middle right: Jennifer Regan from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and "Change the Course," a new partner with Ventura Water and WT1 this year.

## Submit Your Film Now for the 5th Annual Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Festival

**Submission Deadline is Dec. 14, 2016**

Attention film enthusiasts and filmmakers: If you haven't started working on your short film yet for the Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Festival, it's not too late!

Awards include the Audience Choice Award, voted on by the general public with the winner receiving a brand new iPad; the award for Best Student Short Film, chosen by a jury of entertainment and water industry experts with a GoPro camera for a prize; and the Grand Prize of \$1,500 cash presented by Ventura Water.

Film submissions are now being accepted through Dec. 14, so don't miss the deadline! Winners will be announced at a celebration event to be held in Ventura in the spring of 2017. Last year, 48 films were entered from around the globe. The 5th annual contest kicked off with a party held on September 21 in Ventura.

Water: Take 1 aims to create a greater awareness of water as a valuable resource by inviting filmmakers locally and worldwide to submit short films of five minutes or less in any genre - drama, documentary, comedy, animation, sci-fi or experimental - that address the topic of water.

A new partner in the festival this year, the Palmdale Water District, is also sponsoring the Palmdale Vision Award, recognizing films that best represent its mission and objectives, also for a \$500 cash prize.

If you're not sure what your short film should look like, get inspired by watching the Palmdale Water District's hilarious minute-long film, *The Conservation Enforcer*, which won the 2015 grand prize. View *The Conservation Enforcer* [here](#).

For more contest details, visit [www.watertake1.com](http://www.watertake1.com).



Right: Craig Jones from Ventura Water, left, with Mike McNutt of the Palmdale Water District, another new WT1 partner this year.

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### Register Now for the Final FREE Water Wise Gardening Class for 2016

Sat., Nov. 19, 10-11:30 a.m.: **California Natives, Mediterranean, Drought Tolerant? Right Plant: Right Place** ~ There are only five places on Earth that host the biodiversity of Mediterranean climates, and Ventura is one of those locations. Learn about which plants thrive here and how to choose the right plant for the right place. The class location is TBD. Sign up [here](#).

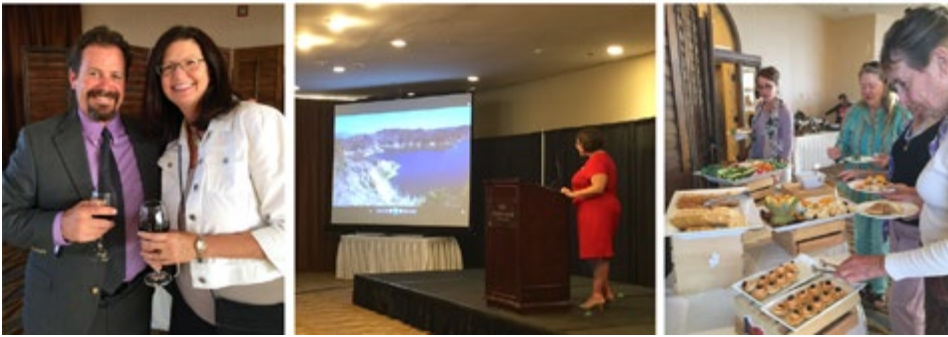


### Apply Now for Ventura's New Water Wi\$e 2.0 Incentive Program

Fall has arrived and now is the perfect time to reimagine your yard for next spring. Ventura Water opened the application period for its popular Water Wi\$e Incentive Program in mid-September, and already the applications are pouring in! The word is out that last year's incentive program reimbursed about 330 program participants, so get your application in now while it's the perfect time of year to plant a new garden!

For more information on

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Left: Craig Jones with Nancy Broschart, a former Ventura Water employee. Bottom middle: Event Host Shana Epstein, GM of Ventura Water, during a video presentation.

## #Keep saving Ventura!

New conservation figures show that Ventura Water customers continue to respond to the call of conservation by exceeding our goal of reducing water use by at least 20 percent each month. Last month, in fact, we did even better: the water conservation level increased in September from the previous month, to 23 percent! We remain at stage 3 water shortage with the continued call for only watering two days per week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. only! #KeepsavingVentura!

In September, our customers reduced water use by 23 percent compared to 21 percent in August. Way to go Ventura! During the fall season cooler temperatures means evaporation is less and moisture stays in the ground for longer so don't forget to adjust your irrigation timers for cool weather watering! And remember to turn off your automated system when it's raining!

Want a professional opinion on how to be water efficient in and around your home? Ventura Water continues to offer free on-site water conservation surveys to commercial and residential water customers to equip them to be more water efficient. Please contact Customer Care at [myvtawater@cityofventura.net](mailto:myvtawater@cityofventura.net) or call (805) 667-6500 to schedule a water conservation survey.

Use the Water Calculator tool to help schedule your irrigation timers more efficiently for the fall season at [www.venturacountygardening.com/calc/](http://www.venturacountygardening.com/calc/). Learn more by clicking [here](#).



Ventura's Water Wi\$e Incentive Program or to apply online, visit [www.removeyourturf.com](http://www.removeyourturf.com) or click [here](#), or call (866) 983-9232.

Water Wi\$e 2.0 aims to reduce water use by offering rebates to customers who replace grass with water-efficient landscapes. New components of this year's incentive program include an online application portal that automates every aspect of the participants' experience; offering weather-based irrigation controllers to qualified applicants; and free high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles through a web administered voucher program accessed by visiting [www.freesprinklernozzles.com](http://www.freesprinklernozzles.com).

The program offers rebates of \$2 per square foot of turf removed for eligible residential projects. Homeowners may receive up to a \$3,200 rebate per home. Commercial properties or homeowners associations may receive up to \$6,400. All rebates will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will be subject to terms and conditions as well as available funding.

[www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org)



[www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)





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