



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Malibu Smart and Topanga Smart programs offer new technologies to help residents conserve water

MALIBU, Calif. (July 25, 2018) – With increasing temperatures, persistent drought conditions and a prolonged fire season, it continues to be important to save water. To address these pressing environmental issues, the City of Malibu, Los Angeles County Waterworks and West Basin Municipal Water District are launching a comprehensive water conservation program. The Malibu Smart and Topanga Smart water savings programs will help both residential customers and businesses reduce water use.

“For decades, Los Angeles County has actively pushed to ensure that we have enough water to survive, and more than that, to thrive—despite longer and harsher droughts,” said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. “This program will introduce residents to innovative water conservation technologies that will save water and provide water resiliency for current and future generations.”

The goal of the program is to save 28 million gallons of water annually in Malibu and Topanga Canyon through the installation of water-saving measures. This will be achieved through a guided water-efficiency program that helps customers get rebates for installing the latest watering technologies. Residents can now extend the benefits of technology outdoors, to ensure that their landscape is as smart as their homes.

“Climate change and longer, more frequent periods of dry conditions are a major concern for our communities, particularly when it comes to fire danger. Smart planning allows you to reduce the risk of fire and maintain your landscape while using less water,” said Scott Houston, director, West Basin Municipal Water District. “Our new program provides the resources to combine water-efficiency and technology to more effectively conserve water while helping to protect the significant investments that Malibu and Topanga homeowners have made to their property.”

Residents of Malibu and Topanga will be able to receive incentives for smart irrigation technologies, which can be controlled by a smart phone and identify leaks before they become costly issues. The largest opportunity for savings exists in the landscape, where 50-60 percent of residential water is used outdoors. For customers that want to take the next step to maximize water savings, a lawn replacement rebate is also available.

“Our residents take pride in their homes and their community. It is important that we do what we can to reduce our water use while also appropriately watering outdoors to prevent dead and dry brush around our homes,” said Malibu Mayor Rick Mullen. “This program gives community members an opportunity to invest in their homes by updating to the latest water management technologies.”

The program is operated through the use of Prop 84 funds. For more information or to participate, call (310) 554-6210, or email us at water@malibusmart.org for Malibu residents and water@topangasmart.org for Topanga Canyon residents. For rebates and water-saving tips, visit socialwatersmart.com.

About the City of Malibu

The City of Malibu was incorporated on March 28, 1991. Located in Northwest Los Angeles County, the City has 21 miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean and a population of 12,645. The people of Malibu have historically demonstrated a commitment to be responsible custodians of the area's natural resources for present and future generations. Promoting water conservation, plastic pollution reduction, stormwater management and water reclamation are all part of the City's comprehensive approach to preserving Malibu's unique natural environment. For more information on Malibu and the City's environmental programs, visit MalibuCity.org.

About Los Angeles County Waterworks

The Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (LACWD) supplies water to approximately 240,000 people. LACWD provides a reliable water source, while educating customers and community members about easy water-saving practices. There are five Districts providing retail water service to Kagel Canyon, Malibu, Val Verde, Acton, and the Antelope Valley. LACWD also operates and maintains the Marina Del Rey Water System on behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, as well as the Rancho Los Amigos Water System on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, and manages the water quality program for the Peter J. Pitchess Honor Rancho water system.

About the West Basin Municipal Water District

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin is an industry leader in water conservation, recycling and education. The District is implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency's dependence on imported water and develop local, drought-proof water supplies. This includes water conservation, recycling, groundwater desalting and the exploration of ocean water desalination. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.

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