

Las Acequias de Placitas



Placitas is in a mega drought. We have not had rain, did not have snow on the mountain this past winter and our water supply is fed by springs. We are using more water than is coming out of the springs and running on a deficit. We can't keep doing this without running out of water. We need to conserve water. Below are a few tips for you to implement immediately.

KITCHEN: Wash your dishes by hand? Don't leave the tap running when you rinse and instead put water in the sink.
Rinse your fruits and veggies in a bowl with water and then use that water for your plants or pet dish.
Dishwasher? Only run full loads and use short cycles.
Need hot water from your sink? Catch the water in a jug until you get your hot water.
Fix leaky faucets.

UTILITY ROOM: Fix leaky faucets.
Adjust water levels to dirty clothes when running washing machine
Use environmentally safe cleaning products and set up grey water catchments for outside plants.
When running water to get it hot, collect it in a jug for plants and pets.

BATHROOM: Take shorter showers – cut water usage by 3 minutes each shower.
Put a brick in toilet tank to reduce water waste.
Flush after 2 times urinating.
Replace shower head to low-flow.
Replace toilet to low-flow.
Fix leaky faucets.
When shaving, brushing teeth or washing face, don't leave faucet running.
When running water to get it hot, collect it in a jug for plants or pet dishes.

PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR GARDEN HOSE TO WATER YOUR OUTDOOR PLANTS.

We know there has not been enough irrigation water to keep your flowers and plants alive. When you use your garden hose you deplete the domestic water supply and that may mean someone downhill from you won't have water to wash, drink or prepare food.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER AND MUST PRACTICE WATER CONSERVATION.

WILDFIRE SAFETY IN PLACITAS: It's hot, it's dry and the risk of wildfires is ever present. Here are some tips to help reduce the risk.

Clear your yards and arroyos and around your house and sheds of dead leaves, branches, mulch and anything that will burn to a defensible area of 30' from buildings.

Don't leave anything that will burn piled up around your house. That is a firetorch! Take the agricultural debris to the dump.

Store your firewood at least 50' from your house and uphill if you can.

Be ready to collect rain water and pray for rain.

PLAN AN EVACUATION ROUTE AWAY FROM YOUR HOME. Fire travels up hill and if a fire starts in one of our arroyos in the village it will be very difficult to put out. Winds take burning embers long distances and they can fly over one house and land in dry leaves, in a gutter full of pine needles or outdoor rugs/chair cushions and ignite a house.

Cut down branches, bushes and trees that are within your home's "Ignition Zone" to reduce the risk of your house catching on fire. Junipers are full of pitch and will ignite like a firecracker.

Be prepared in the event of a fire and have a "To-Go" bag packed and by your front door. Include important papers, emergency contact info, prescriptions, laptops and cords, pictures, mementos – whatever you can't live without. Have your pet carriers ready to load your pets.

IF ORDERED TO EVACUATE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO SO. ONE GARDEN HOSE IS NOT ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOUR HOME. ALLOW FIRE DEPT. PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES ACCESS TO YOUR FULL PROPERTY.

**MAKE A PLAN.
STAY
INFORMED.**

Get to know your neighbors and be ready to help the elderly, those without a car or those with a disability.