

# VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Vandenberg Village CSD Expands Water Conservation Efforts**

Vandenberg Village, CA, June 18, 2008. Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD) recently expanded water conservation efforts on several fronts.

The amount of ultra-low flow toilet rebates was increased from \$130 to \$160 per toilet. Two new rebates were added: \$150 for high-efficiency clothes washers—and \$2 per square foot to replace grass with low-water use plants, rocks, or synthetic turf. Miller Landscaping planted a demonstration garden for the district to showcase sustainable plants suitable for soil and climate conditions in the community. The garden also displays a small patch of synthetic turf.

These incentives to conserve water come at an opportune time, according to Tina McManigal the district's water conservation coordinator. Governor Schwarzenegger issued a drought declaration on June 4, aimed in part at getting local water agencies and districts to take action to reduce water consumption.

The District contributed \$2,896 from water conservation funds to partner with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and Cachuma Resource Conservation District to install a California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) weather station on the Jordan Brothers Ranch in the Lompoc Valley. The station is accumulating weather data that will be available to local farmers and the public, beginning 2009, for weather based and water budgeting methods of irrigation. The CIMIS program began in 1982 and has evolved into a network of 120 weather stations throughout the state.

VVCSD Director Chris Brooks, a retired Cabrillo High School teacher, has been instrumental in getting the Lompoc Unified School District involved in water conservation. VVCSD now has a program to award grants of up to \$5,000 for water conservation activities at village schools. Applications are due by October 15 of each year. Three public schools represent about seven percent of the water used in Vandenberg Village.

VVCSD is an independent special district that provides water and wastewater services to a community of 6,000 people in northern Santa Barbara County. It is governed by a five-member, elected board of directors.

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