



**NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE: November 5, 2019**

## **SCV Water is Prepared for Emergencies**

*Operational Plans in Place for Short and Long-Term Emergencies*

With the extreme weather we've experienced lately – red flag wind warnings, extremely low humidity and massive wildfires – residents and businesses may be wondering about water supplies during a power outage.

Rest assured, SCV Water has an operational plan in place in the event of an emergency:

- During Red Flag Warnings, we operate the tanks at their highest level and keep them full so that we can maintain as much water as possible in our system.
- We use a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system (networked computers and sensors) to view and monitor all of our tank levels throughout the valley.
- We receive pinpoint notices from Southern California Edison for where and when power is expected to go down, so we can move generators to those specific facilities and have personnel available to monitor the situation closely.
- Should power go out, we have large generators available to deploy to key booster stations to keep water flowing. The generators can run up to 12 hours before refueling is necessary.
- We have staff on-call after regular business hours every day, should they be needed for an emergency.
- The Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP) has back-up power and can continue to operate for 4-5 days without power, and then monitor and refuel as necessary.
- We continue to look for additional ways to improve our preparedness and system resiliency to provide water service during emergency conditions.

Adding to the many sources of water that Los Angeles County Fire Department has at its disposal, SCV water is proud to provide additional access at some of our facilities.

“In addition to the fire hydrants you see throughout the valley, we also help aerial firefighting efforts with two helipads, two dip tanks, and another helipad planned at the new Castaic High School,” stated Mike Alvord, director of operations.

Helipads are locations where helicopters can fill from hydrant-type connections. Dip tanks are hard or soft-sided open tanks available to “snorkel” water from.

“SCV Water staff have spent countless hours to develop and fine-tune an operations plan that can prepare us for short and long-term emergencies,” stated SCV Water Board President Bill Cooper. “It’s reassuring to know preparedness is a high priority, and one we can better manage now as a single, regional water provider.”

\*\*\*

For more information about the Edison Power Safety Shutoff Program, or to see if you may be affected, visit: <https://www.sce.com/safety/wildfire/psps>

For up-to-date emergency information, visit the City of Santa Clarita’s Emergency website: <https://santaclaritaemergency.com/>

###

**About SCV Water:**

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is a full-service regional water agency located in the Santa Clarita Valley. SCV Water provides water service to approximately 72,000 business and residential customers. It was formed on January 1, 2018 when local water suppliers combined into one integrated, regional water provider. More information can be found at [www.YourSCVwater.com](http://www.YourSCVwater.com)

For more information, please contact:

Kathie Martin  
Public Information Officer  
SCV Water  
[kmartin@scvwa.org](mailto:kmartin@scvwa.org)  
661-513-1265