LOS ANGELES NEWS

Water rationing behind water main breaks?

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LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- The City of Los Angeles is confirming that September has been a particularly busy month with more water main breaks than usual. Now some city engineers have a theory on what's causing all the breaks.

Officials for the Keston Institute for Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy at USC told the Los Angeles Times the series of breaks may be because of the city's new water rationing policy.

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The water policy only allows people to use their sprinklers on Mondays and Thursdays. Experts say when more water flows on some days, when people are watering their lawns, and flow drops on other days, the constant changes in pressure could be putting too much stress on the city's pipes.

The Department of Water and Power has recorded 34 "major blowouts," in the water system since September 1, the Times reported.

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By comparison, there were 21 in all of September 2008, 17 in September 2007 and 13 in September 2006, according to The Times.

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