



# **Drought Response**

**San Diego Prepares for Mandatory Water Use  
Restrictions Effective June 1, 2009**





## Citywide Water Usage

**Voluntary Reduction Target = 10%**

**Citywide water usage is down by 5%**



## Key Elements of New Ordinance

- Establishes year-round water waste prohibitions
  - The use of hose to wash down paved services
  - Excessive irrigation (gutter flooding)
  - Overfilling of swimming pools and fountains
- Year-round requirements
  - Serving of water only upon request
  - Hotels to offer guests the option of not laundering linens daily
  - Watering of vehicles at commercial car washes or using a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle
  - Customers to repair leaks

## Key Elements of New Ordinance

- Four drought response levels
- Authorized upon recommendation and declaration of Mayor, and Resolution of Council
- Establishes targets / triggers for each level when a specific amount of consumer demand reduction is required
  - Level 1 (voluntary) – up to 10% reduction
  - Level 2 (mandatory)– up to 20%
  - Level 3 (mandatory)– up to 40%
  - Level 4 (mandatory)– greater than 40%

# Drought Response Level 1 (Voluntary)

## **These restrictions become mandatory at Level 2**

- Irrigate only in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.
- Trees and shrubs not auto irrigated must be watered using a positive shut-off nozzle, hand held container, or a garden hose sprinkler system on a timer.
- Irrigation of nursery and commercial growers' products is permitted between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m. or at any time when using a positive shut-off nozzle, a hand-held container, or drip/micro-irrigation.

# Drought Response Level 1 (Voluntary)

- Irrigation of nursery propagation beds permitted any time.
- Vehicle washing only 6 p.m. – 10 a.m with a hand-held container or using a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses, or at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash. Vehicle washing required for public health and safety (e.g. garbage trucks) is exempt.
- Water use by commercial car washes which do not use partially recirculated water will be reduced in volume by an amount determined by the City Council.



## Drought Response Level 1 (Voluntary)

- Water leaks stopped or repaired within five (5) days upon discovery or of notification by the City
- Use of recycled or non-potable water is required for construction purposes when available.
- Water use from fire hydrants is limited to fire fighting and for public health and safety reasons.

# Drought Response Level 2 (Mandatory)

## All Level 1 requirements become mandatory, plus:

Landscape irrigation is limited to no more than three (3) assigned days per week.

Odd numbered residences – Sun, Tues, Thurs

Even numbered residences – Sat, Mon, Wed

Multi-family and non-residential – Mon, Wed, Fri

Lawn watering and landscape irrigation using fan spray sprinklers is limited to no more than ten (10) minutes maximum per watering station per assigned day.

## Drought Response Level 2 (Mandatory)

- Trees and shrubs not auto irrigated may be watered no more than three assigned days per week by using a hand-held container, positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation (soaker hose).
- All leaks stopped or repaired upon discovery or within seventy-two (72) hours of notification by the City.
- Operation of ornamental fountains must stop except to the extent needed for maintenance.



## Water Allocation Development

- A series of workshops were held in various areas throughout the City of San Diego to get the public's input on Water Allocations and how to best implement mandatory conservation within the City.
- City staff committed to continue working on an allocation methodology, incorporate comments from Council members and stakeholders, and develop a water budget based approach.

# Previous Allocation Proposal

- Reduction from baseline FY 2005 – 2007 usage
- Indoor vs. outdoor
- Credit for past conservation
  - Minimum allocation “floor” - 7 HCF / month, higher for larger households
  - Ceiling for indoor usage
  - % of ET for irrigation accounts meeting water budgets
- Variance/Hardship process - Case by case basis
- Penalties for going over Mirror CWA penalties to City



## Contact Information:

Luis Generoso

City of San Diego

Water Resources Manager

Tel (619) 533-5258

Email: [LGeneroso@sandiego.gov](mailto:LGeneroso@sandiego.gov)

Website: [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water)