



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2007

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
MEDIA RELEASE**

SANDERS STEPS UP CALL FOR WATER CONSERVATION

**RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT SAN DIEGO
ASKED TO VOLUNTARILY REDUCE WATER USAGE**

Mayor Jerry Sanders today asked that San Diego residents and business owners step up voluntary water conservation measures. The Mayor is calling on everyone to pay more attention to their personal water use and to take a common-sense approach to reducing water usage wherever possible.

The Mayor offered a host of practical and positive tips for achieving great water savings: He recommends that:

- Irrigation and garden watering be pared back and done with either a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a hand-held container, or a drip irrigation system.
- Everyone be mindful of their water consumption everywhere around the house – combining three smaller loads of laundry into one and making sure the water isn't running as dishes are being washed for instance.
- Washing vehicles be limited to short rinses with hand-held hoses equipped with positive shut-off nozzles or washing done by commercial car washes or commercial service stations using high pressure washing equipment. The Mayor notes that washing vehicles should continue where the health, safety and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleanings. Examples of these include garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

- Residents carefully monitor water levels to avoid overflowing swimming pools, spas, ponds and artificial lakes.
- Anyone in charge of irrigation of golf courses, parks, school grounds and recreation fields cut back water use wherever possible.
- Restaurants ask patrons if they would like water rather than placing glasses at each table.
- Homeowners and business owners use a broom – instead of water – to clean sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas.
- Ornamental fountains and water features be outfitted with recirculating pumps to maximize water use, and that
- Water used at construction sites be limited to applications required by regulatory agencies.

The Mayor also recommends that San Diegans take the time to visit the Water Department's conservation web page for additional water saving tips. The Department's site includes a landscape water conservation calculator and contact information for those interested in a water audit conducted by City staff. The web site is www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/index.shtml. The Department also have customer service staff available to answer questions at 619-515-3500.