



**SAN DIEGANS
WASTE
NO WATER**
ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PUBLIC UTILITIES



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***Local Water Districts Invite Customers to
Showcase Water-Wise Landscapes
California-Friendly® Landscape Contest Entries Due April 6***

SAN DIEGO –Is your home landscape both water-efficient and the most stylish on the block? Then put it to the test. Twelve water districts invite customers to showcase their water-wise landscaping in the *Water Agency California-Friendly Landscape Contest*. One winner in each district will receive a \$250 gift certificate and recognition on the agency websites and in newsletters.

Last year's City of San Diego winner, Robert Smith, said he made landscaping changes to save money on his water bill. But the North Park resident got an unexpected bonus. "It looks great," he said of the new landscape, which features many desert plants. Even during the hot summer months, he only has to water his landscape about a half-dozen times, he said. In the winter, he never has to water.

"We are pleased to join with other water agencies in sponsoring the annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest and we highly encourage homeowners to enter," said JoEllen Jacoby, Supervising Landscape Conservation Designer for the City's Water Conservation Program. "Studies have shown that more than half of the water people use goes towards irrigating landscapes, which is why our program continues to encourage San Diegans to use California-Friendly® plants as a way to "waste no water."

Jacoby offers a few suggestions to enhance the chances of having a winning landscape. "The judges need to see the big picture and the details. So, be sure to provide pictures that show both the landscape and some or all of the house to give a sense of proportion and scale. Look before you shoot! Are there trash cans in the sight line? Is a garden hose showing? Are tools, weeds or nursery pots visible? Be careful to angle your shots to avoid the neighbor's parked car, overhead utility lines or other less than inspiring elements that you have no control over."

"Focus on special design 'vignettes' such as a little sitting area, stream bed or sculpture," continued Jacoby. "Does your landscape frame your door from the street? Be sure to show that in a picture. Finally, include close-ups of plant combinations that show the color, texture and variety of your plant palette. Of course, yank the weeds and make sure your landscape has a mulch cover over any open soil. These pointers will make your front yard picture perfect and make you proud."

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The deadline to enter is April 6, 2012. Each water-wise landscape entry will be judged for overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, appropriate maintenance, and efficient methods of irrigation.

This contest is open to customers of the cities of San Diego and Escondido, Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Sweetwater Authority, Vallecitos Water District, Vista Irrigation District, and California American Water. For official contest rules and an application form, visit: www.landscapecontest.com. For questions, contact Mike Ismail with the City of San Diego at (619) 533-5312 or your local water agency.

For ideas, expert advice, exhibits and classes, visit the Water Conservation Garden, located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West in El Cajon, or go to www.thegarden.org.

The City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.wastenowater.org or call (619) 515-3500. Complementary programs that support wise water use through water reuse include the City's Recycled Water Program and the Water Purification Demonstration Project. For more information on those programs, contact (619) 533-7572 or visit www.sandiego.gov/water/recycled or www.purewatersd.org.

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