



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
PRESS RELEASE**

SANDERS CALLS FOR CONTINUING WATER CONSERVATION

***MAYOR URGES SAN DIEGANS TO TURN OFF OUTDOOR IRRIGATION AS
WESTERN DROUGHT CRISIS CONTINUES DESPITE LOCAL RAINFALL***

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is continuing his call for water conservation by urging all San Diegans to turn off outdoor irrigation systems as rain storms continue across the region. The storms, now predicted to continue off and on through next week, have cut the need for outdoor watering. Given that forecast, the Mayor is asking everyone to leave their sprinklers and other irrigation systems turned off for at least seven days after the rains end.

“The rains we have been receiving and may continue to get through next week are going to keep our lawns and gardens wet enough. There’s no need to turn on our sprinklers for a week or more,” said Mayor Sanders. “We shouldn’t waste water by turning irrigation systems back on too early. They can stay off for seven to ten days after this kind of rain ends,” he said. “The ongoing drought and other challenges to our water supply force us to be smart in the way we use water. Keeping our sprinklers off is the smart move,” said the Mayor.

WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES MAKE CONSERVATION IMPERATIVE FOR SAN DIEGO

Given the challenges facing water supplies for San Diego, conserving water has become everyone’s responsibility. Potential water supply problems for the region are based on a complicated and evolving set of factors including: a prolonged drought along the Colorado River; Federal court cases that may limit water supplies from the Bay Delta in Northern California; and weak rainfall amounts over the past several years.

The City of San Diego Water Department provides information and support for those working to improve their water conservation efforts. There are several City programs that can help San Diegans better manage outdoor irrigation systems including:

1. **Water Use Surveys** - Commercial and residential customers can call the City at (619) 570-1999 to request a survey. A trained professional will assess the current irrigation system, look for

inefficiencies, and develop a customized irrigation schedule for homeowners. This service is provided free of charge.

2. **The Landscape Watering Calculator** – Homeowners interested in getting started on better irrigation practices immediately can log on to www.sandiego.gov/water and click on the Landscape Watering Calculator tab. This nationally recognized tool lets homeowners follow a few simple steps to develop a customized irrigation schedule for their yards.
3. **Weather-based irrigation Controllers** – These “smart” controllers automatically adjust run times as the season and daytime temperatures change, and shut irrigation systems during rainy days. The City of San Diego currently offers substantial rebates for these irrigation controllers. Call (619) 570-1999, or visit www.sandiego.gov/water for more information on the rebate program.
4. **The Commercial Landscape Incentive Program** – In addition to the “smart” controller rebated program, commercial landscape property owners can also avail themselves of incentives for other water efficient irrigation fixtures. Call (619) 570-1999, or visit www.sandiego.gov/water for more information on these incentives.

For more information about water conservation in the San Diego region, or to access the programs listed above, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or www.20gallonchallenge.com. You can also learn more by calling the City’s Water Department at (619) 515-3500.

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