



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **City of San Diego Implements Level 1 Drought Alert** *Level 1 Water Use Restrictions Effective July 1, 2014*

**SAN DIEGO** –On July 1, 2014, the City of San Diego entered a Level 1 drought alert condition—a set of important voluntary water use measures, in addition to permanent mandatory restrictions the City implemented several years ago.

“Level 1 calls for a heightened sense of awareness and responsibility for San Diegans to reinforce their water use habits with additional conservation practices, as we enter our hottest months during a serious drought year,” said Halla Razak, Director of Public Utilities.

Relevant to most residents are the additional guidelines under Level 1 related to irrigation. Landscape watering, under Level 1, should be limited to no more than three days per week. This practice is now recommended in addition to permanent irrigation restrictions that mandate watering before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. in the summer and after 4 p.m. in the winter. Level 1 also recommends that when watering without an irrigation system, a shutoff nozzle or garden hose sprinkler system on a timer should be used.

Below is the complete list of Level 1 restrictions, followed by the City’s permanent mandatory restrictions to be followed at all times. To report water waste, residents may call 619-533-5271, or email [waterwaste@saniego.gov](mailto:waterwaste@saniego.gov). Visit [www.wastenowater.org](http://www.wastenowater.org) for rebate information and other resources.

### **Level 1 Water Use Recommendations:**

- Limit watering of landscapes to no more than three days per week.
- When watering without an irrigation system, use either a hand-held hose with a shutoff valve or a garden hose sprinkler system on a timer.
- Washing of vehicles is limited to the same seasonal schedule as irrigation: before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. in the summer and after 4 p.m. in the winter (except for: boats, which may be washed after use; vehicles for health and/or safety issues; or when washing at a commercial carwash that recycles water.)
- Do not water/irrigate during rain events.

- Use recycled water for construction purposes, when available.
- Construction operations may only use water for normal construction activities, consistent with San Diego Municipal Code Section 67.3803 and requirements by regulatory agencies.
- Limit the use of fire hydrants to fire fighting, construction, health and safety.

### **City of San Diego Permanent Mandatory Restrictions**

The following mandatory water use restrictions are in effect at all times:

- Customers shall repair or stop all water leaks upon discovery or within 72 hours of notification by the City of San Diego.
- The time of day when watering is allowed (before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. from June to October, and before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. from November to May) is a permanent restriction. This does not apply to irrigation as required by a landscape permit; for erosion control; for establishment, repair or renovation of public use fields; for landscape establishment following a disaster; for renovation or repair of an irrigation system; and for nursery and commercial growers using hand held containers, positive shutoff nozzles, or drip/micro-spray systems. The City will review variance applications from customers who feel they cannot abide by this watering schedule.
- City of San Diego water customers must prohibit excessive irrigation and must immediately correct leaks in their private water systems. The City's regulations state that customers "shall not allow water to leave their property due to drainage onto adjacent properties or public or private roadways or streets or gutters due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks." Adhering to this rule also prevents pollution from entering our storm drains and environment.
- Customers cannot use a running hose to wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate safety or sanitation hazards, unless that hose is connected to a water-efficient device such as a commercial water broom.
- Overfilling of swimming pools and spas is strictly prohibited.
- All decorative water fountains must use a recirculating pump.
- Vehicles may only be washed at a commercial car wash or by using a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle or with a hand-held water container.
- The City will not provide new water service connections for customers using single pass-through cooling systems.
- All new conveyer car wash and commercial laundry systems connections will be required to employ a recirculating water system.
- Restaurants and other food establishments shall only serve/refill water for patrons upon request.
- Guests in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments will be provided the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.

*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](http://www.wastenowater.org) or call (619) 515-3500.*

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