

LEADING BY EXAMPLE



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FACT SHEET

The City of San Diego is actively engaged in reducing its water use at City facilities to help meet the State Water Resources Control Board's 16 percent water reduction mandate set forth in May 2015 as a result of the continuing drought in California.

Park & Recreation Department

- Reduced operation of fountains, except to the extent needed for maintenance purposes (in adherence with the state mandate.)
- Eliminated irrigation for off-leash dog parks
- Replaced hundreds of conventional spray heads to low water emitting stream rotation nozzles citywide
- Converting overhead spray irrigation to more efficient drip systems in areas of Balboa Park
- Using "deep soak" approach to tree watering in areas of reduced irrigation to use water more efficiently
- Reduced irrigation on less utilized areas of parks while continuing irrigation to athletic fields, historically designated areas, high tourism areas, and special community spaces associated with park programming
- Incorporating and increasing drought-tolerant landscapes throughout City parks
- Increasing application of mulch to City park grounds to encourage moisture retention
- Reduced irrigation throughout areas of Balboa Park Golf Course and Mission Bay Golf Course
- Irrigating Torrey Pines Golf Course with recycled water

Facilities Department

- City facility replacement toilets upgraded from 1.6 gallon model to 1.28 gallon water efficient model
- Installed self-closing drinking fountains and sinks at all City facilities
- Removed all toilets and urinals in the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, and replaced with the low-flow faucets with low-flow aerators
- Conducting an assessment of fixtures in all City-owned facilities to determine where additional water savings may be generated

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Public Utilities Department (PUD)

Recycled Water Offsets Potable Water Use

In an effort to beneficially reuse all recycled water produced in the City, the PUD is actively working to connect new customers to the recycled water system. The efforts have been paying off as recycled water meter connections have increased more than 44 percent since 2007. Additionally, PUD is working to help existing recycled water customers increase their usage by encouraging projects such as converting their cooling systems to recycled water. As of April 2015, the City provided recycled water service to approximately 660 retail meters and five wholesale meter connections, including the City of Poway, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, and Otay Water District.

New Resources to Combat Water Waste

The City is enforcing all mandatory water-use restrictions with staff from the Public Utilities Department and the Transportation & Storm Water Department. Notices of violation and/or administrative citations will immediately be issued when evidence of water waste is found. The City is required by the state to report enforcement actions and the number of violations on a monthly basis. Five additional Public Utilities code enforcement officers were included in the 2016 fiscal year budget to augment the existing positions solely dedicated to policing water violations.

Drought-Tolerant Landscaping

Traditional grass landscapes have been replaced or enhanced with drought-tolerant landscaping in three Public Utilities facilities, including its headquarters in Kearny Mesa, the North City Water Reclamation Plant and the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. These water-wise landscaping projects will help the City meet its water savings goals and also serve as inspiration for other organizations and residents in the City.

Citywide Water Use Reduction Team

To ensure coordination across City departments, the Citywide Water Use Reduction Team was created. A core team of representatives are working collaboratively to identify innovative strategic measures for implementation while ensuring policies are consistent throughout the City.

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