SAN DIEGANS WASTE NO WATER

MESSENGER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM JUNE 2011

Mayoral Press Conference, April 29, 2011: Roger Bailey, Director of the City's Public Utilities, Michael Hogan, Chair of the San Diego County Water Authority and Mayor Jerry Sanders

Water Conservation Is a Way of Life

Welcome to the first in a series of newsletters to keep you up to date as we continue our conservation efforts, moving from a call to action to reduce water consumption to a long-term commitment to use water wisely. Our goal is to make "wasting no water" synonymous with the best of San Diego and what it means to be a San Diegan.

One of the most important things to know as a San Diegan is where your water comes from. On average, local water accounts for 15% of our water. The remaining 85% we import from sources hundreds of miles away—from Northern California's Bay Delta and from the Colorado River.

The water we import from the Bay Delta is subject to legal challenges due to endangered-species pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. In addition, energy is used to pump this water to Southern California; as energy prices increase, so does the cost of water. Lastly, there's no guarantee what Northern California will receive in rain and snowpack, which becomes the water pumped to Southern California.

We also import much of our water from the Colorado River Basin. It has experienced prolonged drought and that drought is expected to continue, posing further challenges to the waters this essential river provides to San Diego and all of the communities up-river from us.

Despite these long-term concerns over our imported water supplies, a wet winter filled up state reservoirs and replenished snowpack levels.

> **"Water is a precious resource that we can't afford to waste."**

Due to improved conditions, Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City Council lifted the City's mandatory water-waste restrictions. He emphasized, however, that the conservation ethic should remain. "Water is a precious resource that we can't afford to waste," he stated. "We've all developed great water habits these past two years. Let's not discard those habits just because the water shortage is over." Visit *www.WasteNoWater.org* for a list of ways to avoid wasting water.

As the weather gets warmer and you enjoy more outdoor activities, remember to continue to monitor your outdoor water use. On the following page you'll meet Cameron Perry, who took advantage of rebates to relandscape his garden with drought-tolerant native species. In doing so, he embraced the ethic of conservation, proving that All Day, Every Day, San Diegans Waste No Water!

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Check out these fun activities in June:

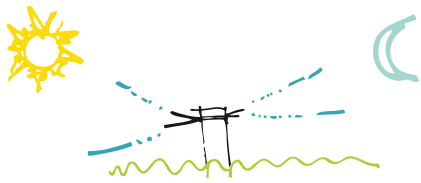
COMMUNITY PRESENTATION
Tuesday, June 14—5 to 7 p.m.
North Park Library
To enjoy a free community presentation on water conservation, *click here.*

ENVIRO FAIR
Saturday, June 18—All Day
Del Mar Fairgrounds
To learn about recycling, sustainable living, pollution prevention, conservation and environmentally friendly products, *click here.*

REUBEN H. FLEET GREEN DAY
Saturday, June 25—12 to 3 p.m.
Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
To celebrate Green Day with hands-on activities about renewable energy the entire family can take part in for free, *click here.*

FREE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOURS AND CLASSES
To take a free tour and attend classes that will brighten your green thumb, *click here.*

Did you know?



Watering times are before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Permanent water-waste restrictions are still in place. As of June 1, watering times are only allowed before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. This is to reduce evaporation during the warmer summer and fall seasons. For a full list of permanent restrictions, *click here.*

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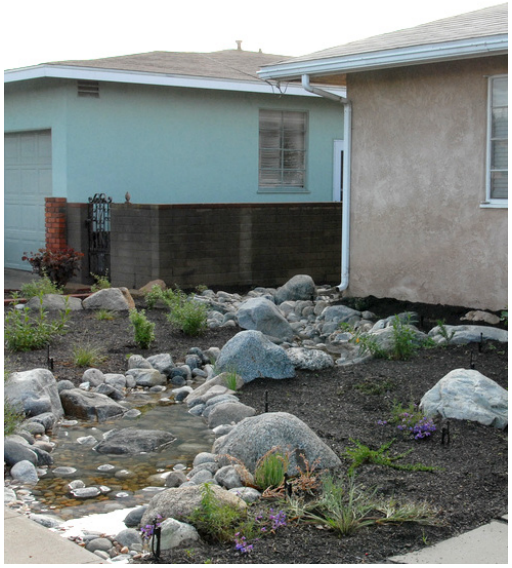
Perry's Garden Rooted in Sustainability

San Diegan Cameron Perry

With funding provided primarily through a grant from the state of California, the City of San Diego's Residential Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program offers up to $2,595 in potential rebates to individuals who upgrade an existing irrigation controller to a Smart Controller, convert an overhead spray sprinkler system to micro-irrigation or replace



their water-hungry turf with a more sustainable landscape. We spoke with a recent participant, Cameron Perry, about the rebates for which he applied and his overall thoughts on the program.

Q: *What inspired you to create a sustainable landscape in your yard?*

A: I have an interest in gardening and I was intending to re-landscape. A nursery in San Juan Capistrano specializes in California native plants and offers free classes on converting your lawn to a native landscape. I took some classes, checked out the plants and decided to try it in my yard.

Q: *What sustainable landscape practices did you incorporate into your design plans?*

A: I constructed a streambed that originates at the downspout and winds through the front yard. It helps capture rainwater, reducing water runoff, and it helps filter rainwater. Also I converted my sprinkler system to a micro-irrigation system. Finally, I planted all California natives.

Q: *What plants did you choose and why?*

A: Flowering plants were important to me, so I wanted to incorporate as many as I could. In total I planted 17 different major varieties, and different species of those varieties, including California Lilac, Matilija Poppy, California Fuscia, Sage and Lemonade Berry.

Q: *What results have you seen?*

A: My water bill for March was 40% lower compared to the same month last year. In addition to saving money and helping the environment, a sustainable landscape can be beautiful—with blooming flowers and fragrant smells.

Q: *Would you refer this rebate program to others?*

A: Definitely. I already have to most of my neighbors, many of whom stopped by while I was out working in the yard these past few months.

Q: *How long did it take from start to finish?*

A: It took about four months from start to finish. I started in October and just received my rebate check in March.

Q: *What would you recommend to someone considering changing his/her landscape?*

A: Plant native plants!

To learn more about native plants, check local nurseries or visit the Water Conservation Garden at *www.TheGarden.org.*

ONLINE RESOURCES

Year-Round Water-Waste Restrictions:
To read up on the water-waste restrictions that are in place year-round, *click here.*

Your Dollars at Work:
To learn more about how the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department is using your water and sewer fees to fund programs, services and infrastructure, *click here.*

Residential and Commercial Outdoor Water Conservation Rebates:
To access eligibility requirements and applications for rebates on smart controllers, micro-irrigation, and sustainable landscape-turf replacement, *click here.*

Residential and Commercial Water Conservation Surveys:
To learn about free on-site indoor and landscape water conservation surveys that provide customized information on how to save water and money, *click here.*

Find us online

QR Codes: Download a QR Code reader on your smart phone and start scanning! Here are some of our codes. Give it a try!

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