



**Councilmember David Alvarez
Councilmember Ed Harris
City of San Diego**

News Release

For Immediate Release
April 23, 2014

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Councilmembers Alvarez & Harris Announce Drought Response Measures

SAN DIEGO, CA. Councilmembers David Alvarez and Ed Harris discussed the City's steps to combat drought conditions with voluntary drought response measures. This item will be heard at today's Committee on the Environment.

"Drought conditions throughout California have continued to put a strain on the available supply of water," said Alvarez. "San Diegans have done an amazing job at conserving water and I know that we can reduce our water consumption by working together to implement these common sense voluntary measures."

The City of San Diego's "Drought Response Level 1" is typically invoked when the City Council finds a reasonable probability, due to drought, that there will be a supply shortage. This condition adds additional voluntary water conservation measures that are added to the City's existing permanent water restrictions. These voluntary measures include:

1. Landscape irrigation limited to assigned three days per week;
2. When watering without an irrigation system a shut-off nozzle or garden hose sprinkler system on a timer is required;
3. Washing vehicles limited to the same schedule as irrigation (except for boats, vehicles with health/safety issues and a commercial carwash that recycles water);
4. Use recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes;
5. Fire hydrants for firefighting only;

6. Construction operations can use water only as required by regulatory agencies;
7. Irrigation is not permitted during rain event;

“We live in a beautiful city, but one with a dry climate, and we need to accept conservation as a permanent way of life,” said Councilmember Harris. “Water is our most precious resource, and implementing these important steps takes very little effort. It’s up to all of us to conserve.”

A declaration of Drought Response Level 1 would bring the City in line with most municipalities and water agencies within the region and the state. The Drought Watch Condition was previously invoked by the City Council on July 28, 2008.

On Feb. 13, the San Diego County Water Authority’s Board of Directors formally activated the agency’s Water Shortage and Drought Response Plan and approved notifying the Water Authority’s 24 member agencies that the region is at Level 1 Drought Watch of the region’s Model Drought Response Ordinance. The Water Authority is not anticipating cutbacks to its imported water supplies this year that would trigger mandatory supply cutbacks to its member agencies.

“The San Diego region is weathering the drought better than some parts of the state due to investments by local ratepayers to diversify water supplies, along with the region’s demonstrated commitment to conservation,” said Ken Weinberg, director of Water Resources for the Water Authority, who joined the Councilmembers on Wednesday to talk about the region’s drought response. “But it’s still critical that each of us do a little more to reduce our water use. By working together, we can save significant amounts of water in case dry conditions continue into 2015.”

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Alvarez is the Councilmember for the Eighth Council District of the City of San Diego and is Chair of the City Council’s Committee on the Environment.

Harris is the Councilmember for the Second Council District of the City of San Diego and is a member of the Committee on the Environment.