



The City of



Public Utilities Department

FACT SHEET

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Effective 2016

Why is San Diego implementing Drought Response Level 1 – Drought Watch Condition?

While El Niño produced only modest rainfall in San Diego, the state, as a whole, has improved its water reserves. An examination of San Diego's water requirements for the next three years indicate that we have sufficient supply to move to a more moderate conservation level. In response to this regional report the City Council has approved the Mayor's recommendation to enact drought response Level 1 which includes voluntary restrictions.

What are the current voluntary Level 1 restrictions?

- Limit landscape irrigation to no more than three days per week (not applicable to commercial growers or nurseries, nor to golf course greens and tees or homes using irrigation systems)
- Use a hand-held hose with shut-off nozzle or a bucket to water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs
- Wash mobile equipment only before 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. with a bucket or hose with a shut-off nozzle

What are the permanent Water Waste Prohibitions?

- Eliminate runoff from irrigation systems or uncorrected leaks
- Repair all leaks within 72 hours of discovery or notification
- Do not wash down paved surfaces without a pressure washer or hose with a shutoff nozzle
- Do not overfill swimming pools or spas
- Ornamental and cascading fountains require recirculating pumps.
- Use hoses with shut-off valves for washing cars (or patronize commercial car washes that recirculate water)
- Restaurants and other food establishments may only serve water upon request
- Provide the option of not laundering towels and linens daily at commercial lodging establishments
- No irrigation or hand watering of potted plants, non-commercial vegetable gardens and fruit trees, residential and commercial landscapes after 10:00 a.m. and before 6:00 p.m.
- No irrigation of ornamental turf on public medians
- No irrigation during or within 48 hours of measurable rainfall

Was implementing Level 1 effective in the past?

The City of San Diego implemented Level 1 from July 2014 until November 2014 at which time Level 2 restrictions were enacted. While in Level 1, the City moderately reduced its water usage, however, the City's permanent water waste prohibitions are now more restrictive.



How do I report water waste?

Please email waterwaste@sandiego.gov or call (619) 533-5271 whenever you see water being wasted. The City's free "Waste No Water" smart phone application allows San Diegans to report sightings of water waste. Go to the app store on your iPhone or Android device and search for "Waste No Water" to download the app. You also may report water waste entering the City's storm drain system by calling the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Hotline at (619) 235-1000 or visiting sandiego.gov/stormwater.

How will this effect fighting wildfires?

Fighting wildfires and protecting the health and safety of our citizens is a top priority for the City of San Diego. There are no restrictions on the availability of water for that critical mission.

What is the easiest way to save water?

The City of San Diego will continue offering the free [Residential Water Survey Program](http://sandiego.gov/water/survey). City of San Diego Public Utilities customers will receive information and tips, water-saving devices, evaluation of landscape irrigation, and investigation of common household leaks. The City also has free classes for conserving water while improving landscapes, rebates for purchase of water-saving devices, and continue public outreach. Visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation> for more information.

Will these changes affect rebates and programs being offered?

There are no expected changes related to the rebate and conservation programs. The rain barrel rebate program and new downspout redirect program opened with the new fiscal year on July 1. The City also offers a new graywater systems rebate that is currently open and has a pressure regulator valve rebate opening soon. The grass replacement and micro-irrigation rebate programs will coincide with the new County Water Authority program. Please check our website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation> for the most current information. For the County Water Authority rebates please visit <http://www.watersmartsd.org/programs>. You may also be eligible for rebates through SoCal Watersmart. Visit <http://socalwatersmart.com/> for more information about their programs.

What is the City doing for our long-term water supply?

The City of San Diego is implementing Pure Water San Diego. A program to develop 1/3 of our city's water supply by 2035. To learn more about the program, visit purewatersd.org.

Additionally, San Diego County Water Authority and its member agencies that serve the region's cities and communities have enough water supplies to meet the region's demands for the next three years even as the drought continues. The recent opening of the Carlsbad desalination plant and the raising of the San Vicente dam project, as well as a variety of City of San Diego projects, helped regional water supplies and will continue to do so for decades to come. Water conservation is still important and we must be vigilant with our water supplies.

Will the City's water conservation enforcement policy change?

No, the City's enforcement policy will not change. The City of San Diego will continue to comply with current statewide urban water conservation regulations that have been set in place by State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Efforts are leaning more towards increasing public education outreach on the importance of water conservation practices not only in drought but, our continual efforts to conserve water before drought emergencies.