

Long Beach **WATER**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Long Beach Water Commends Governor Brown for Leadership on Turf-Removal Action

Long Beach's Turf-Removal Program Best Way for City to Conserve Water

LONG BEACH, CA – The Long Beach Water Department commends Governor Brown's latest initiative to promote turf-removal projects. Long Beach Water invites the community to "discover the California revolution" on Saturday, May 2nd for its fourth annual free Lawn-to-Garden Tour.

"Governor Brown's turf-removal action is a big step forward as California enters its fourth year of drought," said Harry Saltzgaver, President of the Board of Water Commissioners. "Long Beach has demonstrated that removing grass and replacing landscapes with drought tolerant plants is the best way to conserve water."

Governor Brown's executive order will replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments.

Long Beach's Lawn-to-Garden program gives residents \$3.50 per square foot, for up to a thousand square feet, to remove their front lawn and replace their landscape with drought tolerant and California-native plants. To date, Long Beach has converted almost 2 million square feet of residential and commercial turf to drought tolerant landscapes. Long Beach's Lawn-to-Garden program will celebrate its fifth birthday next week.

“Lawn-to-Garden is recognized as the standard in turf removal programs,” said Kevin Wattier, General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department. “More importantly, ripping out grass and replacing yards with beautiful, California-friendly plants that thrive naturally in our semi-arid region is the new norm.”

“Lawn-to-Garden’s biggest success is the multiplier effect it has on the community. When one neighbor starts this transformation, others follow suit,” added Wattier. “The behavior change and permanent water savings a neighborhood receives from this switch is remarkable.”

The Lawn-to-Garden program has been recognized by the California Municipal Utilities Association and the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

Register for the Tour that will showcase 30 Lawn-to-Garden landscapes throughout the City at www.lblawntogarden.com.

Long Beach Water is an urban, Southern California retail water supply agency, and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

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