

Long Beach **WATER**



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, April 7, 2016

Contact: Kaylee Weatherly

(562) 570-2314

kaylee.weatherly@lbwater.org

Long Beach Reduced Water Use in March by 16%

Conservation Still Needed as Warmer Weather Approaches

LONG BEACH, CA – Today, the Long Beach Water Department reports that residents and businesses met its state mandated target and reduced water use in March by 16 percent compared to March 2013. The city used about 3,986 acre-feet of water in March. Last month's water use was the lowest since 1965.

Long Beach has reduced water use cumulatively by 15 percent since June 2015 to March of this year. The State Water Resources Control Board extended the water reduction mandate throughout the state until October of this year.

“We still have to keep saving despite the improving snowpack and rainfall conditions El Niño has brought in the northern part of the state,” said Frank Martinez, President of the Board of Water Commissioners. “Conservation needs to be our new normal.”

“We need to remember that the drought is not over,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “We have to keep up the saving until October and beyond, to make conservation a permanent way of life.”

Residents can still apply for the \$2.50 per square foot Lawn-to-Garden incentive to remove their lawn in their front yard and replace it with beautiful drought tolerant plants. The free Fifth Annual Lawn-to-Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 10AM – 2PM and will feature over 30 newly transformed California-friendly gardens throughout Long Beach. For more information on the incentive and to register for the Garden Tour visit www.lblawntogarden.com.

Long Beach Water's "MissionH₂OLB" conservation campaign aims to help the city use water efficiently, meet the state's target, and still enjoy the community's lifestyle. By visiting www.lbwater.org/mission, residents can calculate their water usage to see if they are meeting the Long Beach target, take the pledge to save water and listen to song playlists by two local bands to remind them to take a one song shower.

Residents and businesses are urged to turn sprinklers off during and after spring rain storms to achieve big water savings. There are still rebates available for many devices, including high efficiency clothes washers (\$150 rebate) that save tremendous amounts of water and energy. Funding is limited and provided on a first-come/first-served basis at www.socalwatersmart.com.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) mandated Long Beach to cut its water use by 16 percent cumulatively, compared to 2013, until February of this year. The SWRCB has extended the mandate, and the continuing mandate will require Long Beach to cut its water use by 12 percent monthly compared to 2013 until October of this year.

- June 2015, 19% reduction
- July 2015, 19% reduction
- August 2015, 17.7% reduction
- September 2015, 18.6% reduction
- October 2015, 16.3% reduction
- November 2015, 11.6% reduction
- December 2015, 9.8% reduction
- January 2016, 13% reduction
- February 2016, 4.4% reduction
- March 2016, 15.8% reduction

Long Beach Water is the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

###