

Long Beach **WATER**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Long Beach Surpassed Governor's Mandate Fourth Month in a Row

September 2015 water use down 18.6 percent compared to 2013

LONG BEACH, CA – Today, the Long Beach Water Department reports that residents and businesses exceeded the 16 percent water conservation mandate for Long Beach, set by the SWRCB, for the fourth time in a row coming in at just under 19 percent, despite numerous heat waves. The city used about 4,445 acre-feet of water in September. Last month's water use was the lowest since 1959.

“Long Beach has surpassed the statewide mandate for the fourth month in a row, and that shows our city is making lifestyle changes in the way we use water,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “It’s important that we continue conserving in the hot months and in the upcoming wet winter months ahead of us.”

The average temperature for the month of September in Long Beach was 88 degrees, seven degrees warmer than the 10-year average of 81 degrees for the month of September.

“As the 2015 water year ends, it is important to continue implementing the proven practices in conservation adopted by the Water Department, which have yielded solid results,” said Frank Martinez, President of the Board of Water Commissioners. “The upcoming winter months could bring much needed rain; however, we also recognize that it is not going to end the drought.”

Single-family residences that purchase and install a high-efficiency toilet (1.28 gallons per flush or less) to replace a less-efficient toilet (using more than 1.6 gallons per flush) can now receive

up to \$200 in rebates, previously rebated at \$100. The additional \$100 comes from the statewide “Save Our Water” program, while the other \$100 comes from the Metropolitan Water District’s “SoCal Water\$mart” program. The combined rebate amount could cover the full cost of a toilet replacement. Residents must apply for the funding via both websites at www.saveourwaterrebates.com and www.socalwatersmart.com. Funding is limited and provided on a first-come/first-served basis.

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.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has mandated Long Beach to cut its water use by 16 percent cumulatively compared to 2013 until February of next year. Long Beach has beat the state mandate every month.

- June 2015, 19% reduction
- July 2015, 19% reduction
- August 2015, 17.7% reduction

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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