

Long Beach **WATER**



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, June 2, 2016

Contact: Kaylee Weatherly
(562) 570-2314

Kaylee.weatherly@lbwater.org

Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners Declares a Stage 1 Water Supply Shortage Condition as State Conservation Mandate Remains in Effect

Long Beach residents and businesses urged to continue setting the bar for water efficient practices during drought

LONG BEACH, CA – The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners adopted a resolution today to declare a Stage 1 Water Supply Shortage condition, rescinding the current Stage 2 Water Supply Shortage. The adoption of the Stage 1 Supply Shortage means that all current Stage 2 restrictions remain in place with the exception that one additional outdoor watering day will now be permitted during the hot summer months for Long Beach residents and businesses, allowing outdoor watering on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays through September 30, 2016.

This action follows the May 19, 2016 State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) decision to extend and modify the emergency urban water conservation mandate to allow water suppliers to locally determine conservation mandates effective June 1, 2016 through February 2017. The new revised SWRCB urban conservation mandate is in response to improved reservoir conditions in northern California. But the state is still under a drought emergency as declared by Governor Brown, and Long Beach remains in an “exceptional drought” condition per the U.S. Drought Monitor.

“We want to thank our residents and businesses for their tremendous work conserving over the past year, and remind them that responsible, efficient water use is still expected and required,” said Frank Martinez, President of the Board of Water Commissioners. “Sustainability and water use efficiency are hallmarks of the Long Beach lifestyle.”

“While residents will receive some relief from the more stringent water use restrictions, we are still calling for continued and diligent water use efficiency in the city. Wasteful water practices are now prohibited permanently by the State,” shared Chris Garner, General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department. “We support Governor Brown and the State Water Resources Control Board’s recognition of locally appropriate actions and mandates, along with their strong and continued emphasis on using water wisely and continued conservation throughout our state.”

Long Beach Water will continue working closely with customers to provide information and outreach to assist them in saving water both indoors and outdoors. The “MissionH₂OLB” campaign provides residents tips and information on how to save. 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 as a reminder to take a one-song shower.

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. For more information on the incentive visit www.lblawntogarden.com. There are still rebates available for many devices, including high efficiency clothes washers and toilets that save tremendous amounts of water and energy. Funding is limited and provided on a first-come/first-served basis at www.socalwatersmart.com.

Long Beach Water will continue to monitor water waste reports, and residents can report water violations via www.lbwater.org, the hotline number (562-570-2455) or through the Department’s Report a Water Waster mobile app.

Water restrictions in effect:

- Residents and businesses can only irrigate landscape during summer months on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays until September 30th, 2016. Two-day per week landscape irrigation (Tuesdays and Saturdays) will begin in the winter on October 1st, 2016.
- Residents and businesses can only irrigate landscape 10 minutes per station per watering day, or 20 minutes if using water-efficient rotating nozzles
- Residents and businesses can only irrigate landscape before 9am or after 4pm
- Residents and businesses cannot irrigate the landscape nor any other use of water beyond saturation, causing unreasonable runoff
- Residents with pools and spas must use a cover to prevent evaporation
- Residents and businesses cannot hose down hardscape with a hose, unless using a pressurized cleaning device

- Residents and businesses cannot irrigate landscape during measurable rainfall or anytime within 48 hours afterwards
- Residents cannot wash a vehicle with a hose unless it has a water shut-off nozzle or device attached to the hose
- Residents and businesses cannot allow the wasting of water due to breaks, leaks or other malfunctions in the plumbing or distribution system
- Restaurants cannot serve water to customers without the customer requesting it
- Hotels and motels must post signs to notify patrons they can choose not to have linens and towels washed daily

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

###