



## LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT

The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **MWD Official Reports Rapid Depletion of Water Supply Reserves**

### **State Senate Committee Hears Testimony on Water Supply/ Bay Delta Issues**

SACRAMENTO, CA - Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager for Strategic Water Initiatives at the [Metropolitan Water District \(MWD\) of Southern California](#), provided testimony to State Senators, at a joint informational hearing of the Natural Resource and Water Committee and the Budget and Fiscal Review, Subcommittee No. 2, on the water supply outlook for his agency and "the increasing precariousness of Southern California's water picture." The MWD imports, treats and sells water to local, Southern California water suppliers and their 18 million customers. The Long Beach Water Department purchases nearly half of its water from the MWD.

During the joint Committee hearing held yesterday in Sacramento, Patterson read a prepared statement into the record. The following is an excerpt from that statement:

"Despite a healthy snow pack and a series of wet storms, deliveries from the State Water Project in 2008 are dramatically curtailed. Deliveries could be impacted further due to the potential listing of another fish species, the Long Fin Smelt. Listing of additional species is also possible. Metropolitan is rapidly depleting its existing water supply reserves with no relief in sight. This depletion of reserves is occurring despite significant long-term water use efficiency investments (conservation, recycling and groundwater treatment) that have been made over the past two decades."

"Once again, we call on the Metropolitan Water District and the Southern California water supply community to join Long Beach and take a more aggressive, long-term, public stance on the need to immediately conserve water," stated [Bill Townsend](#), President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. "Implementation of strict prohibitions on certain outdoor water uses, bolstered with aggressive public communications, is the future for southern California. We're asking our colleagues to embrace this future, today. We, collectively, need to engineer a permanent lifestyle change in the way we all see and use our water, so that inefficient and wasteful uses are no longer tolerated by anyone. The only way this kind of effort is going to be sustained, is if we have all of Southern California on board."

In June of last year, the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners made a Declaration of Immediate and Extraordinary Water Conservation, followed by a Declaration of an Imminent Water Supply Shortage in September, triggering certain citywide water use restrictions, enforcement of those restrictions and aggressive public communication with its customers on the need to immediately reduce water use, particularly outdoors. These actions were the direct result of climate conditions, a rapid depletion of statewide water supply reserves and the imminent interruption in the supply of water from the Bay Delta area in order to mitigate environmental concerns (killing of Delta Smelt). In calendar year 2007, the MWD consumed 20 percent of all its dry year water storage reserves.

Long Beach has reduced its water use by an additional 8 percent since June of last year.

The [Long Beach Water Department](#) is an urban, southern California retail water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

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