



LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT  
The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Long Beach Water Commission Urges Increased, Regional Action on Water Conservation**

LONG BEACH, CA - The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners have again renewed their call for a more aggressive, regional effort to conserve water. As the summer heat approaches, demand for water throughout southern California is going to increase. As this demand increases, so too will the rate at which we deplete our emergency water supplies. "We're calling on our own customers to use this time before the Summer heat arrives to set an outdoor watering budget that uses no more water than was used this winter, states Bill Townsend, President of the Board of Water Commissioners.

### **There are three ways you can accomplish this:**

- 1.** Give your sprinkler systems a thorough tune-up to reduce overspray and run-off. For help, visit <http://www.lbwater.org/conservation/tuneup.html>
- 2.** Support official prohibitions on outdoor water uses. Only water your yard Monday, Thursday and Saturday. No watering between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. To learn about these prohibitions, visit <http://www.lbwater.org/pdf/conservation/wateruseprohib.pdf>
- 3.** Reduce the size of your grass lawn by installing a California native, water efficient landscape. Nearly seventy percent of all the water we use is used outdoors. For help visit [http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/tips\\_01.html](http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/tips_01.html)

The 2008 winter snow survey conducted last month by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is indicating that the water content of the Sierra snow pack is near normal, but State Water Project deliveries continue to remain at near record lows due to last year's federal court ruling that significantly restricts Delta pumping from December through June, to protect an endangered fish. "The snow pack is back to normal, but a broken Delta means water deliveries to millions of Californians will be far below normal this year," said DWR Director Lester Snow.

"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 a successful effort is going to be sustained, is if we have all of Southern California on board."

Currently, the State Water Project is projected to deliver only 35 percent of requested amounts this year to cities, farmers and businesses in the Bay Area, Central Valley and Southern California. Last year, State Water Project deliveries were around 60 percent. "We have twice the snow pack and only half the water supply as we did at this time last year, stated [Kevin L. Wattier](#), General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department. "This demonstrates the real implications of last year's federal Delta Smelt ruling."

In early March, during a joint Senate Committee hearing held in Sacramento, Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), read a prepared statement into the record, stating that "despite a healthy snow pack and a series of wet storms, deliveries from the State Water Project in 2008 are dramatically curtailed. Metropolitan is rapidly depleting its existing water supply reserves with no relief in sight." The MWD wholesales imported water supplies to communities throughout southern California. Fifty percent of Long Beach's water supply is purchased from the MWD.

Since June of last year, the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners has implemented extraordinary conservation measures, including enforcement of new citywide restrictions on certain outdoor uses of water. These efforts have achieved an additional 6 percent reduction in water use citywide through March of this 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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