



## LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT

The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# Long Beach Hits Record Low Water Use in August; 19% Below 10-Year Average; City is Nearly 10% Below 10-Year Average YTD

LONG BEACH, CA - The [Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners](#) have announced that Long Beach water demand for August 2008 has set a new 10-year record low. It is the 8th record setting month for low water use since the Board of Water Commissioner's declaration of an imminent water supply shortage in September 2007. August 2008 water demand was 18.9 percent below the 10-year average water demand; it was over 18 percent below August 2007. Long Beach water demand for fiscal year 2008 is tracking at 9 percent below the 10-year average for annual water use. Last month, the Board of Water Commissioners announced that Long Beach had set a new record low for July 2008, which was 16 percent below the lowest July on record over the past 10 years.

According to [Bill Townsend](#), President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners, the state's most critical water supply reserves, those that supply water to southern California communities, including Long Beach, are now at their lowest combined level since 1977. "Communities throughout southern California must implement mandatory restrictions on the most wasteful outdoor uses of water, and those restrictions need to be made permanent. Again, I want to thank our customers for their huge effort in using water more efficiently and urge them to continue."

On September 13, 2007, the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners issued a Declaration of Imminent Water Supply Shortage and activated the City's Emergency Water Supply Shortage Plan. As a result, the Board of Water Commissioners issued mandatory prohibitions on certain outdoor uses of water. "The Board took the action it did nearly one-year ago to forestall and lessen the impact of an expected water supply shortage," according to Townsend. The Board's Declaration was necessitated by the profound impact of permanent reductions to imported water deliveries into southern California; the dramatic reductions in water storage levels in key reservoirs in northern California; and climate conditions resulting in drought. To date, the Long Beach Water Department has issued no water use citations.

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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