



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

PRESS RELEASE

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Long Beach September, October Water Use Tracking Lowest in Decade; Despite Dry Conditions

LONG BEACH, CA - Today, [Bill Townsend](#), President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners, announced that “the residents and business community of Long Beach continue to be responsive to the urgent need to preserve our region’s strategic water storage supplies, once again, more positively than perhaps any other community in the region.” Water use in Long Beach this past October was a near record low for the month, and the second lowest of any October in the last decade. Early last month, it was [announced](#) that water use in Long Beach this past September was lower than any other September in the last decade, setting a new record: 6% below the previous low and 12% lower than average.

On September 13th, 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 has issued new, fairly dramatic citywide prohibitions on certain uses of water. “The Board took the action it did to lessen the impact of an expected water supply shortage,” according to Bill Townsend. “We’re focused on bolstering a permanent change in lifestyles, so that inefficient and wasteful uses of water are no longer tolerated in this community.”

The Water Commission’s September Declaration was necessitated by the profound impact of a U.S. District Court’s August 31st, federal Endangered Species Act ruling, the dramatic, recent reductions in water storage levels in key reservoirs in northern California, this year’s record low rainfall in the southern California coastal plain, and a continuation of the historic 8-year drought in the Colorado River Watershed, which is a

significant source of imported water for California. Nearly half of the City's water supply is imported.

“The numbers we’re seeing here in Long Beach are encouraging,” stated [Kevin Wattier](#), General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department. “This is the kind of effort that needs to be taking place throughout southern California, not just here in Long Beach, if we want to lessen the impact of a fairly significant shortage going into next 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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