

Long Beach **WATER**



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Long Beach National Guard Facility Breaks Ground on 53,000 sq. ft. Turf Removal Project**

LONG BEACH, CA – On Monday, construction began on the third and final phase of a comprehensive turf removal project at the Army National Guard Facility located on Redondo Boulevard in Long Beach. The project, which will revitalize over 50,000 square feet of highly visible landscape, was made possible through a Long Beach Water Department program that seeks to remove water-thirsty grass lawns in favor of California Friendly plants and gardens. The funding is being put to use by a local recruiting unit of the California State Military Reserve (CSMR), led by First Sergeant Jerry Shultz, a former Long Beach city council member and active member of the CSMR.

“The Armory is the last thing our National Guard soldiers see when they deploy from Long Beach to go to war and it is the first thing they see when they return home,” said First Sergeant Shultz. “My dream is for it to be the most beautiful Armory in the nation.”

Once complete, the project will achieve recognition as the single-largest turf removal project in Long Beach. While the third phase of the project will eliminate approximately 53,000 square feet of grass, the first and second phases removed 1,000 and 7,200 square feet, respectively, adding up to more than 60,000 square feet of landscape that will be transformed at the National Guard facility.

“We commend First Sergeant Shultz and his staff for undertaking this wonderful project,” said John Allen, President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. “Not only will the new landscape be beautiful and inspiring to all those who see it, but it will also improve the reliability of our local water supplies here in Long Beach.”

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the completed project is planned for later in the fall. The Water Department also plans to hold a separate ceremony in November to recognize the completion of the city’s 1000th Lawn to Garden Project.

Long Beach Water is an urban, Southern California retail water supply agency, and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

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