

City of San Marino addresses drought crisis in California

The state is facing one of the most severe droughts after a winter of record-low rainfall and snow, decreased water levels in reservoirs and reduced water flows in the state's rivers and underground basins.

On January 17, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency. On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown directed the Water Resource Control Board to prepare for water shortages and impose water restrictions on the States' water supply agencies. The restrictions require local governments to prohibit irrigation of turf on public street medians and irrigation outside of newly constructed homes and buildings. The direction also calls for replacement of lawns with drought tolerant landscapes and a limited-time appliance rebate program, among other directives.

California American Water provides service to the cities of San Marino, Bradbury and Duarte and portions of El Monte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Rosemead, San Gabriel, and Temple City, as well as unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County and the Baldwin Hills area. The required water reduction for the City of San Marino/grouping of cities is 28%. The City is currently facing stage 2 water restric-



The City plans to place water conservation signage on center medians in San Marino.

tions and may ultimately face stage 3 water restrictions, which would impose significant surcharges for residential users if the system does not meet its 28% reduction.

At its July 25, 2014 meeting, the City Council approved the four regulations identified by the State Water Resource Control Board as mandatory requirements. These mandatory restrictions include: 1) washing down driveways and sidewalks; 2) watering of outdoor landscapes that cause excess runoff; 3) using a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle; and 4) using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.

The City's recent efforts include a center median turf removal project and a demonstration garden in front of City Hall. The City has also stopped watering the center medians along Huntington Drive and Sierra Madre Boulevard. The City may remove turf and re-irrigate and install drought tolerant landscaping on the center medians along Huntington Drive and Sierra Madre Boulevard. The City has applied for the SoCal Water Smart Turf Removal Rebate Program through the Metropolitan Water

District (MWD), which awards up to \$2 per square foot of turf removal to address the drought and also reduce long-term maintenance needs, cost and water usage.

The demonstration garden in front of City Hall is sponsored by California American Water. The garden will showcase drought-tolerant landscapes as an alternative to ornamental turf. The long-term benefits of low maintenance drought tolerant landscaping in place of the existing high maintenance turf is a sustainable approach in this drought-prone environment.

Below are the items listed in Chapter 14, Article 16.04 of the City's Water Conservation and Water Supply Program and Regulations Ordinance:

1. Limits on Watering Hours:
Watering restrictions except by use of a handheld bucket or similar container, a handheld hose that is fitted with a shut-off nozzle. *Please see the water schedule being proposed to City Council in June:*
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- B. Limits on Watering Duration:
Watering restrictions for . Except low flow drip irrigation systems when no emitter produces more than 2 gallons of water per hour and weather-based controllers or

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Site of proposed demonstration garden in front of City Hall.

City Council

Eugene Sun, Mayor
 Dr. Allan Yung, Vice Mayor
 Dennis Kneier, Councilmember
 Dr. Richard Sun, Councilmember
 Richard Ward, Councilmember
 John Schaefer, City Manager

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Drought crisis

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door water consumption (see table on back page). The City encourages residents to partake in this city-wide water conservation effort and take advantage of special rebates and incentives available to residents.



- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Check your sprinkler system valves for leaks and keep the

- sprinkler heads in good shape.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. This can help you discover leaks.
- Adjust your watering schedule to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.
- Cover pools and spas to avoid evaporation.
- Consider replacing infrequently used lawn areas with low-water use plants or ground covers.

- Consider installing an automatic rain shutoff device on your sprinkler system.
- Take your car to a car wash that recycles water. If you wash it yourself, use a bucket and sponge and rinse sparingly.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler.



Learn to care for trees during the drought by staying informed on the following:

1. What symptoms to look for in trees during severe drought
2. How to water your tree
3. Amount of water needed and methods to use
4. How to add mulch around trees

The City encourages residents to modify existing parkways to install drought-tolerant landscapes to reduce water consumption. To learn more about the City's conservation efforts, installation of drought-tolerant landscapes and how to care for trees during drought, visit cityofsanmarino.org or contact Environmental Services Manager Ron Serven at (626) 300-0789. ■

OUTDOOR TIPS	
What You Can Do	How Much You Save
Adjust irrigation times with the seasons *	250 gal/cycle
Adjust sprinklers to avoid unnecessary overspray	500 gallons/month
Replace spray head nozzles with rotator nozzles ‡	1,200 gal/yr/nozzle
Replace part of your lawn with low water plants	1,000–1,800 gal/mo.
Put 2-4 inches of mulch around bushes and shrubs	20-30 gal/dy/1,000 sf
INDOOR TIPS	
What You Can Do	How Much You Save
Fix leaky faucets and toilets	20-50 gal/day/fixture
Run only full loads in clothes and dish washers	300-800 gal/month
Keep showers to less than 10 minutes	700 gallons/month
Replace old toilet with an efficient toilet(1.28 gallon or less) ‡	3-4 gallons/flush
Replace clothes washer with a water efficient one ‡	20–30 gallons/load
Replace old showerhead with lower flow head (1.5 gal/min)	~1,000s of gal/month

‡ Rebate Information: socialwatersmart.com
 *Watering Information: bewaterwise.com/calculator.html