

Governor orders drop in water use

Drought response calls for 20% reduction in Helix area

With emergency drought conditions persisting throughout California, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted an emergency regulation on May 5 requiring an immediate 25 percent reduction in overall potable urban water use statewide in accordance with Gov. Jerry Brown's April 1 executive order.

The order required, for the first time in the state's history, mandatory conservation for all residents and directed several state agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board, to take immediate action to safeguard the state's remaining potable urban water supplies in preparation for a possible fifth year of drought.

Although there are more than 400 water agencies in California, each was designated with its own percentage of required reduction.

The Governor Has Ordered
Water Use CUTS of 20%
for Helix Water District

Your efforts to save add up

- Water no more than 2 days per week
- Fix leaks promptly
- Shorten showers
- Follow all mandatory use restrictions

See full list of restrictions at hwd.com/conservel/level-2-flier.pdf



Helix Water District was assigned a mandatory 20 percent reduction. Helix and other water agencies in San Diego County argued for a lower cutback locally because residents here have invested significantly to reduce reliance on state water sources.

Helix Water District sent the postcard above to all account holders in its service area. The mailer has information on the governor's order and tips to reduce water use.

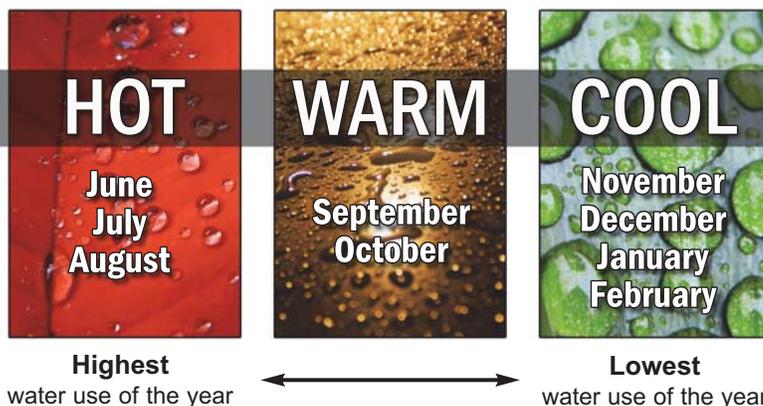
See "Governor..." on page 4

Hotter months critical in drought battle

Customers can help district avoid up to \$10,000 per-day penalties

With all the news about the severity of the drought and no immediate relief in sight, you may have asked yourself, "How can I help?" or "What are some fairly simple things I can do right now to reduce my water consumption?"

To help you help California, Helix Water District has compiled a list of suggested actions that can be implemented quickly to help meet the governor's mandated 20 percent reduction in the Helix service area.



The deadline to reduce use by the mandated percentage is February 28, 2016. Water savings for the district service area must be achieved in the hotter months. It will be impossible to do so during the remaining cooler months and the State Water Board may impose up to \$10,000 per day in penalties against Helix for noncompliance.

See "Hotter months..." on page 3

Attend a free class to learn ways to save

Water-Wise Landscape Colors



Nodding Pincushion



Bird of Paradise



Pride of Madeira



Kangaroo Paw



Matilija Poppy

Are you interested in becoming a more water-wise gardener? Helix Water District will be hosting two landscape classes sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Attend one of two three-hour workshops and learn ways to make your residential garden beautiful and California-friendly.

The free classes are scheduled for

Saturday, October 17 and 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at the district's operations center at 1233 Vernon Way in El Cajon. Pre-registration is required.

To register, email rsvp@helixwater.org or call (619) 667-1711.

Please provide your name, phone number, the date of the class you will be attending and the number of attendees in your group. 💧

Cut water use by changing your landscape

Water Conservation Garden provides sage counsel on water-wise home landscaping

With a historic drought crushing the country's western region and California Gov. Jerry Brown's order to reduce water use by 25 percent across the state, there has never been a better time than now to replace thirsty home landscaping with water-wise groundcover, bushes and trees.

And there is no better place for San Diego's East County residents to learn the best ways to do that than at the Water Conservation Garden in Rancho San Diego. "The Garden," as it is commonly known, is nearly five acres of drought-tolerant landscaping that demonstrate how great beauty can be obtained outdoors without requiring an abundance of water.

"The Garden showcases water conservation through a series of beautiful, themed sections," John Bolthouse, The Garden's executive director said. "For example, we have a native plant garden and a vegetable garden, as well as how-to displays for mulching and irrigation.

"There is something for everyone who wants to use less water on outdoor landscaping. Admission is free and the Garden can be viewed on a self-guided tour or through one of our programs."

The Garden hosts numerous classes— from four to six per month—taught by local professionals and they are open to the public. The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization provides training for professional landscapers and conducts tours for groups of school children



file photo

The Water Conservation Garden on the grounds of Cuyamaca College in Rancho San Diego provides numerous examples of the beauty that can be achieved with water-wise landscaping.

and adults by appointment.

The Garden also runs a speaker's bureau and executes an extensive outreach program with appearances by Ms. Smarty-Plants™ at educational events and area schools.

The Garden is a great place to find numerous ways to reduce water use and help get through this unprecedented drought.

More information is available at The Garden's website, www.thegarden.org. 💧

Hotter months critical in drought battle

Continued from page 1

Condominiums and Apartments

If you don't have landscaping to water, saving 20 percent overall means saving 20 percent on each household water use. Make sure indoor plumbing fixtures are low-flow, including toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators.

Homes with Landscaping

Outdoor watering accounts for half of the average California home's water use. You can save 20 percent overall by reducing your irrigation by 40 percent.

Eliminate Water Waste

Begin with the Pacific Institute's online tool, WECalc, at www.wecalc.org. It calculates your water use, recommends options for saving water and provides a list of what you will need and the cost.

Check your plumbing fixtures for leaks, especially toilets. Do a leak test at your meter. Find instructions and a demonstration video at hwd.com/customer/index.htm

Do a test on your irrigation system to check for broken sprinkler heads and runoff. To address runoff, try:

- ◆ Adjusting sprinkler nozzles to not spray onto sidewalks and driveways.
- ◆ Trimming shrubs and grass that block sprinkler nozzles.
- ◆ Aerating and/or dethatching your grass. This allows more water to reach the soil.

Make Strategic Cuts

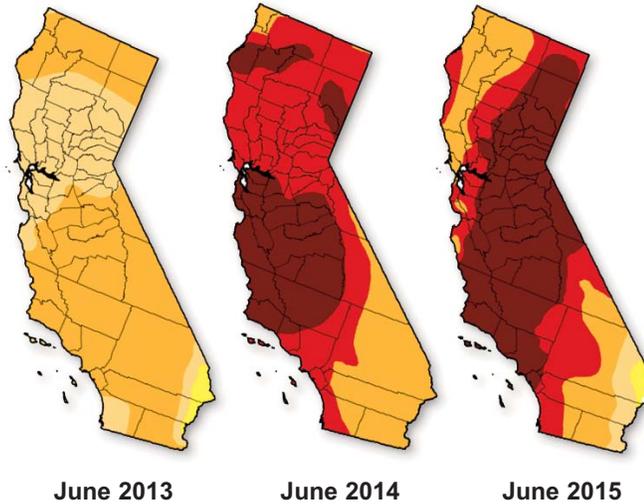
Grass won't survive this summer on 10 minutes of water twice per week with spray sprinklers. Consider letting your lawn go brown or make it smaller by keeping the active areas – where children and pets play – and replace the inactive areas with mulch.

Then, replace the spray nozzles that water your remaining lawn with rotary nozzles, which use about 20 percent less water.

Rebates may be available for irrigation controllers and rotary nozzles; check on the web at socalwatersmart.com.

Graywater

A graywater system lets you redirect the



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, NOAA, USDA

water draining from your clothes washer, bathtub, shower or bathroom sink into your landscape to irrigate trees and shrubs. A laundry-to-landscape system (from clothes washer only) is simple to install and usually doesn't require a permit. See Helix's graywater fact sheet at hwd.com/conserv/graywater-facts.pdf for who to call regarding a permit, how-to guides and other resources.

Faucets

If faucets in your home were installed before 2009, they likely have a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute; before 1975, the flow rate is likely 3.5 gallons per minute.

Unscrew the tip of your faucets and replace the aerators with WaterSense-labeled aerators with a flow rate of 1.5, 1.0 or 0.5 gallons per minute. The aerators are available at most hardware and plumbing supply stores; installation is easy and the water savings are huge.

Showerheads

Purchase a WaterSense-labeled showerhead, which uses at least 20 percent less water than a standard, 2.5 gallon per minute showerhead. Reduce shower times.

Toilets

If the toilets in your home were installed before 1994, they can use anywhere from 3 to 5 gallons per flush. Replace your toilet with a 1.28 gallon per flush (or less) model. Rebates may be available at socalwatersmart.com. 💧

Drought Facts

2012
Drought Began

2013
Driest Year on Record (CA)

2014
Warmest Year on Record (CA)

2015
Driest Winter on Record (CA)

74%
Percent of stream gauges in California showing flows less than 25 percent of normal

44%
Percent of stream gauges in California showing flows less than 10 percent of normal

Source:
8,000 stream gauges
USGS California
Water Science
Center



Rotating sprinkler nozzle

Everyone benefits from living trees

If you stop watering your lawn, keep watering your trees. Trees cool a community by up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit, reduce evaporation from the landscape, and increase property values. And, when a community loses a tree, it can take over 50 years to replace it.



Trickle Ring



The U.S. Forest Service estimates the drought has killed over 12 million trees in California's national forests and the situation is equally critical for urban trees.

Trees should be watered slowly, allowing the water to go 12 to 18 inches into the soil where the roots are.

Position a soaker hose, which attaches to a garden hose, or drip line, which attaches to an irrigation system, in a circle under the edge of a tree's canopy and water once a week for one to five hours (larger trees need more water). 💧



Trees filter our air and provide temperature-lowering shade. Watering our tall friends through drip lines or soaker hoses makes maximum use of scarce water.

Helix makes investments to diversify water sources

To help control the ever-rising cost of importing water and increase supply reliability, Helix Water District has invested in a nearly completed desalination plant in Carlsbad through the San Diego County Water Authority and is investigating the viability of an indirect potable reuse project in partnership with Padre Dam Municipal Water District. The district continues to look for ways to keep costs down and reliability up to benefit its customers. 💧

Governor orders water use reduction

Continued from page 1

These investments included the soon-to-be-completed desalination plant in Carlsbad, other up-and-coming water reuse projects, the recent expansion of the San Vicente Reservoir and the long-term water transfer agreements made with the Imperial Valley.

Despite those investments, the State Water Resources Control Board proceeded with mandatory reductions after the release of water production figures for the month of March, which registered only a slight increase from the amount of water saved in the prior month.

Water conserved in March 2015, as compared to March 2013, was 3.6 percent, up less than one percent from February's results.

Since the State Water Board adopted its initial emergency urban conservation regulation in July 2014, voluntary statewide conservation efforts have reached 9 percent overall — far short of the 20 percent Gov. Brown

called for in 2014.

"This is the drought of the century..." Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said.

"(W)e set a high but achievable bar, with the goal of stretching urban California's water supply. We have to face the reality that this drought may continue and prepare as if that's the case.

"If it rains and snows next winter, we celebrate. If the drought continues, we'll be glad we took difficult but prudent action today. It's the responsible thing to do."

The governor's mandated reduction in water use must be achieved between June 1, 2015, and February 28, 2016.

A 25 percent (statewide) savings amounts to more than 1.2 million acre-feet of water over the next nine months, or nearly as much water as is currently in Lake Oroville. 💧

Article adapted from a State Water Resources Control Board report.

DIRECTORY

DeAna R. Verbeke
President

Director, Division 2
(619) 667-6232

Charles W. Muse

Vice President
Director, Division 3
(619) 667-6232

Kathleen Coates Hedberg

Director, Division 4
(619) 667-6232

John B. Linden

Director, Division 1
(619) 667-6232

Joel A. Scalzitti

Director, Division 5
(619) 667-6232

Carlos V. Lugo

General Manager
(619) 667-6241

Ted Salois

Highlights Editor
(619) 667-6257

Administration Office

7811 University Ave.
La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 466-0585

Nat L. Eggert

Operations Center
1233 Vernon Way
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 596-3860

R.M. Levy

Water Treatment Plant
9550 Lake Jennings Park Rd.
(NO MAIL)
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 443-1031

After-Hours Emergency:

(619) 466-3234

www.hwd.com



Helix Highlights is published three times each year. Helix Water District is a public agency governed by a board of directors elected to four-year terms by registered voters in the divisions in which the directors live. The board meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. and the fourth Wednesday at 3 p.m. at 7811 University Ave., La Mesa, Calif.