



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2010
TO: Natural Resources and Culture Committee – Agenda of February 24, 2010
FROM: Alex Ruiz, Assistant Public Utilities Director
SUBJECT: Monthly Update on Conservation and Water Use Restrictions

Since June 24, 2009, the Public Utilities Department staff has provided the City Council's Natural Resources and Culture Committee with monthly updates on water conservation efforts and the implementation of mandatory water conservation restrictions. Included in this update are the water usage reduction data and an outlook on our local and regional water supply.

Water Supply Outlook

Aside from mandatory water use restrictions that helped reduce demand on imported water sources, January brought significant snowpack and rains to our state and local mountains and reservoirs. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported on February 1st that snowpack in the Sierras was recorded at 115% of normal. Likewise, regional reservoir levels have improved over the last year.

Storage Levels at Regional Reservoirs

	Capacity	% Full (2010)	% Full (2009)
Diamond Lake (MWD - near Hemet)	810,000 AF	48%	50%
Lake Oroville (DWR)	4.55 MAF	36%	30%
Lake Shasta (DWR)	3.5 MAF	65%	32%
San Luis Reservoir (DWR)	2.0 MAF	63%	35%

Looking at water supplies from the Colorado River, by mid-February, the snow water equivalent* in the Upper Colorado River Basin is at 80% of average. Storage in Lake Powell is at 57% of capacity, which is still below desired levels, according to the US Bureau of Reclamation. Overall reservoir storage in the Colorado River Basin as of February 9, 2010 is at 55% of capacity.

*Snow Water Equivalent is the amount of water in a volume of snow, measured by weight.

Will we get more rain and snow this year? The 3-month outlook provided by the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center shows normal to above normal precipitation in California through April, 2010.

Locally, City reservoirs, as of Feb 8, 2010, are at an average 50% of capacity, with room to capture runoff in anticipation of additional rainfall.

While there is a noted improvement in storage level over last year, the reservoirs where San Diego’s imported water comes from are still far from being “full.” City staff plans to continue its water conservation message in preparation for the Spring and Summer water demand. Water allocations from CWA for FY 2011 are expected to be announced in May.

Water Use Reduction in Fiscal Year 2010

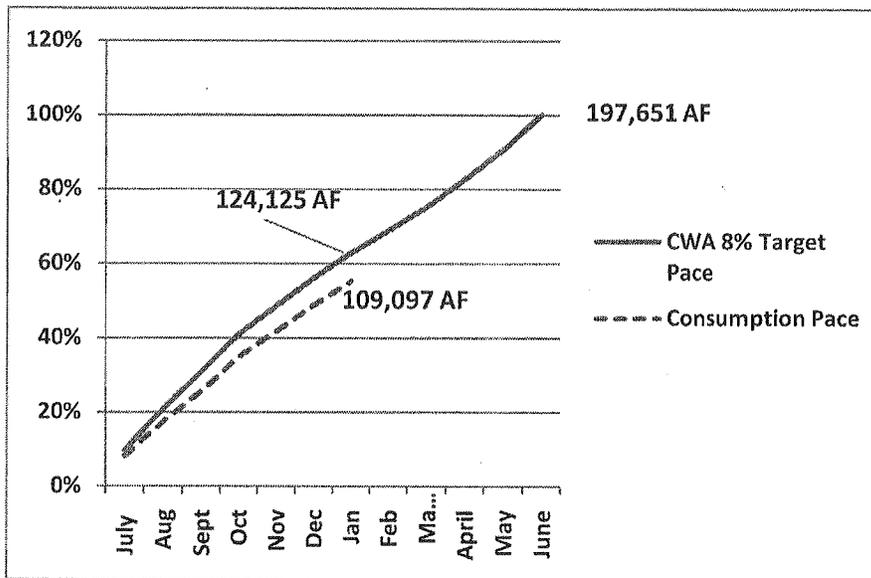
January 2010 and Year-to-Date Water Usage

	Jan 2010 vs. Average Jan usage in 2005 to 2007	Fiscal YTD vs. previous year
Citywide Usage	-9.6%	-10.6%
Residential	-11.0%	-10.9%
Single-Family	-19.5%	-13.0%
Multi-Family	+2.9%	-6.9%
Commercial/Industrial	+1.0%	-6.2%
Irrigation	-26.5%	-17.5%
City Government	-23.2%	-6.7%

A comparison of water usage in January 2010 to the average usage in January during 2005 to 2007 shows that citywide usage is down 9.6%. This 3-year baseline of 2005 to 2007 may be considered normal usage years since it predates the established conservation messaging related to the current drought, and is a good baseline for measuring the effects of water conservation efforts. This is the same baseline that the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) is using in determining our allocations. Looking at how FY 2010 compares to the previous fiscal year, to-date, water usage citywide is 10.6% lower.

Meeting CWA’s Allocation

The City’s Fiscal Year 2010 water use reduction target from the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) is 8%. Breaking down the annual target into monthly targets, the City is ahead of the pace in achieving its annual target. Instead of having used 63% of its FY 2010 allocation by the end of January, City’s billed consumption totaled only 55%, showing a savings of 14,428 acre-feet (AF) for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010.



Water Waste Enforcement

With regards to water waste enforcement, over 3,500 complaints were received during the first 7 months of mandatory conservation. 47 cases have been referred to Code Enforcement Officers due to non-action. No citations that carry fines have been issued.

Alex Ruiz
Assistant Public Utilities Director

LSG/lsg

cc: Jim Barrett, Director of Public Utilities
Mike Vogl, Deputy Director, Customer Support Division
Chris Robbins, Acting Water Resources Manager