



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 28, 2010
TO: Natural Resources and Culture Committee – Agenda of June 16, 2010
FROM: Alex Ruiz, Interim Director of Public Utilities
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

San Diego is experiencing an average rainfall year this year, while certain parts of California received above average rainfall and snow. This has resulted in changes in our water storage levels. A look at regional and local precipitation totals shows the following:

1. Snowpack in the Sierras is at 167% of normal, as of May 23, 2010. This time last year, snowpack was at 31% of normal.
2. Total rainfall to-date in San Diego is 10.52 inches or 99% of normal, as of May 24, 2010.
3. Reservoir levels have also shown some improvement over the last year.

Storage Levels at Various Reservoirs, as of May 23, 2010

	Capacity	% Full (2010)	% Full (2009)
Lake Oroville	4.55 MAF	69%	65%
San Luis Reservoir	1.47 MAF	73%	39%
Lake Powell (as of May 10)	24.3 MAF	57%	51%
Diamond Valley Lake	0.81 MAF	48%	50%
City of San Diego Reservoirs	0.41 MAF	57%	50%

While the rains and snowpack this year have helped improve our water supply outlook, the effects of a multi-year drought are still evident in some of the reservoirs. Moreover, regulatory restrictions affecting pumping from the Bay-Delta remain likely for FY 2011. City staff

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anticipates that the required water use reduction for FY 2011 will not be more restrictive than this year, and plans are for the City to continue its water conservation messaging and mandatory water use restrictions through next year. The San Diego County Water Authority is expected to announce FY 2011 water allocations later this month.

Water Use Reduction in Fiscal Year 2010

Given the timing of the Natural Resources and Culture Committee's June meeting, and the subsequent deadline for submitting reports, the water billed consumption data for May was not available and was not included in this written report. However, the data will be available and presented at the June 16, 2010 meeting.

Water Waste Enforcement

With regards to water waste enforcement, over 5,008 complaints were received through April 25, 2010, since the restrictions began last June. A total of 59 cases have been referred to Code Enforcement Officers due to non-action. No citations that carry fines have been issued.



Alex Ruiz

Interim Director of Public Utilities

LSG/lsg

cc: J. Brent Eidson, Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Relations
Marsi Steirer, Interim Assistant Director, Public Utilities
Mike Vogl, Deputy Director, Customer Support Division
JoEllen Jacoby, Acting Water Resources Manager