



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2011

TO: Natural Resources and Culture Committee – Agenda of March 2, 2011

FROM: Roger Bailey, Director of Public Utilities

SUBJECT: Monthly Update on Conservation and Water Use Restrictions

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Since the first month of implementation of mandatory use restrictions in San Diego in June 2009, the Public Utilities Department staff has provided the City Council's Natural Resources and Culture Committee with monthly updates on compliance efforts and resulting reductions in water use. For Fiscal Year 2010, water usage citywide was 11% lower than usage during the previous year, meeting the 8% reduction target set by the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA). In Fiscal Year 2011, the CWA called for the same usage reduction target of 8%. This update summarizes water usage in the City of San Diego for this Fiscal Year through January 31, 2011. It also includes the current water supply outlook and the latest information on water waste compliance.

### Water Supply Outlook

The record rainfall in December 2010 was followed by a much drier January. A total of 0.3 inches of rain fell on Lindbergh Field, almost 2 inches below what is normal for January. As of February 7, 2011, recorded rainfall in San Diego Lindbergh Field is at 8.41 inches total for the season. Average annual rainfall is 10.77 inches. The average temperature in January was 2.3 degrees warmer than what is expected for the month of January.

The following summarizes the reservoir levels and snowpack water content at sources within the City's water supply system, as of February 7, 2011:

- Storage levels at California Department of Water Resources reservoirs have increased compared to the previous year.
  - Oroville is at 70% of capacity compared to 35% last year.
  - Shasta is at 77% of capacity compared to 63% last year.Both reservoirs are at or above their average storage levels.
- Snowpack water content in the Sierras is at 116% of average. This time last year, snow content was 111% of average statewide.

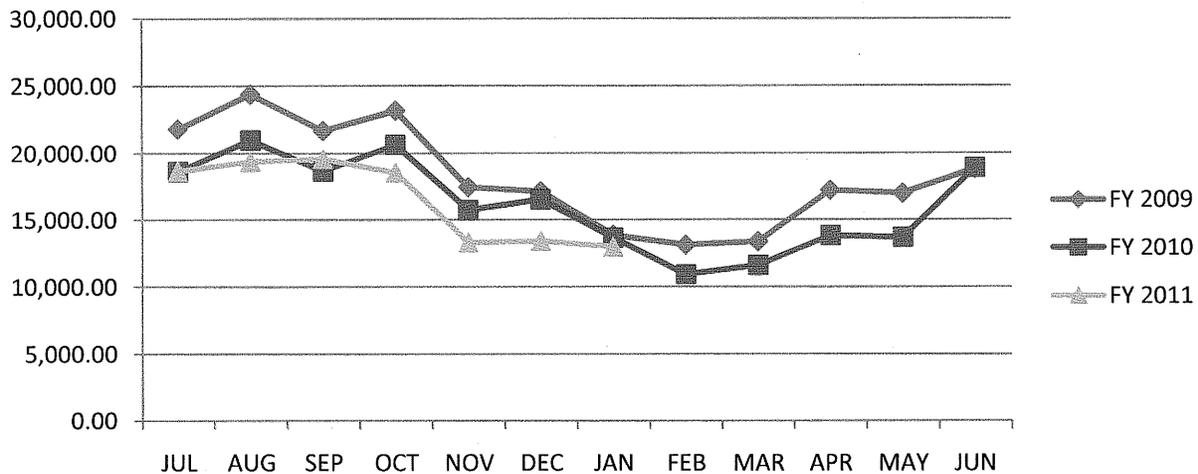
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s Diamond Valley Lake is 84% full, compared to 48% from last year.
- According to the United States Bureau of Reclamation, inflow into Lake Powell is a useful barometer of drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin. Lake Powell inflow has been below average every year since 1999, excluding water years 2005 and 2008.
  - Lake Mead is 42% full (at 1,093 feet elevation)
  - Lake Powell is 56% full
- City of San Diego reservoirs are 64% full. Work on raising the San Vicente Dam is still in progress.

The National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center predicts below normal precipitation for Central and Southern California from March to May 2011, while Northern California should experience normal precipitation levels during those same months. A continued dry winter and its effects on the Colorado River system makes it advisable to continue water conservation efforts.

### Water Use Reduction

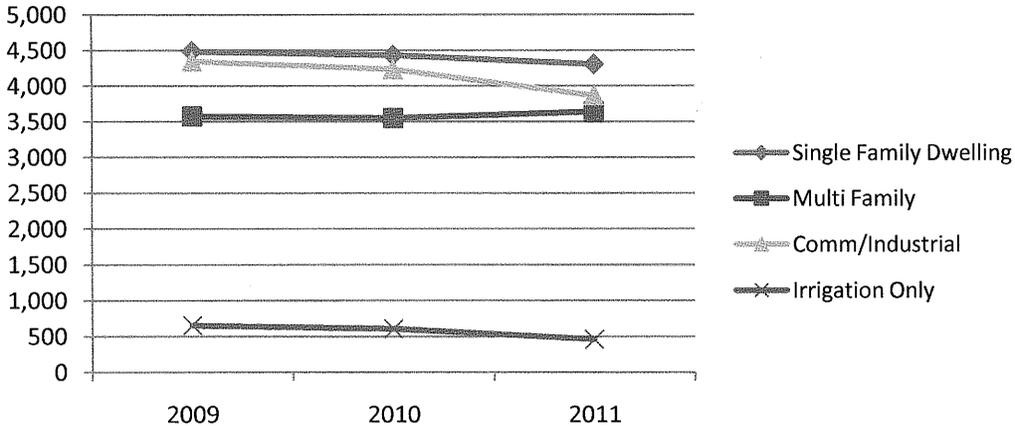
Chart A shows how overall water consumption in the City has trended in the last three years. Usage in FY 2010 was significantly lower than FY 2009, the year before mandatory water conservation was implemented. Billed consumption in January 2011 citywide was just slightly lower than those from previous years.

**Chart A – Total Consumption (AF)**



**Chart B – Billed Consumption in January (AF)**

Chart B below shows billed consumption from major customer categories for January 2011, compared to consumption during the same period from previous years. Usage has dropped for single-family residential, commercial/industrial, and irrigation customers while usage by multi-family residential customers showed a slight increase from last year.

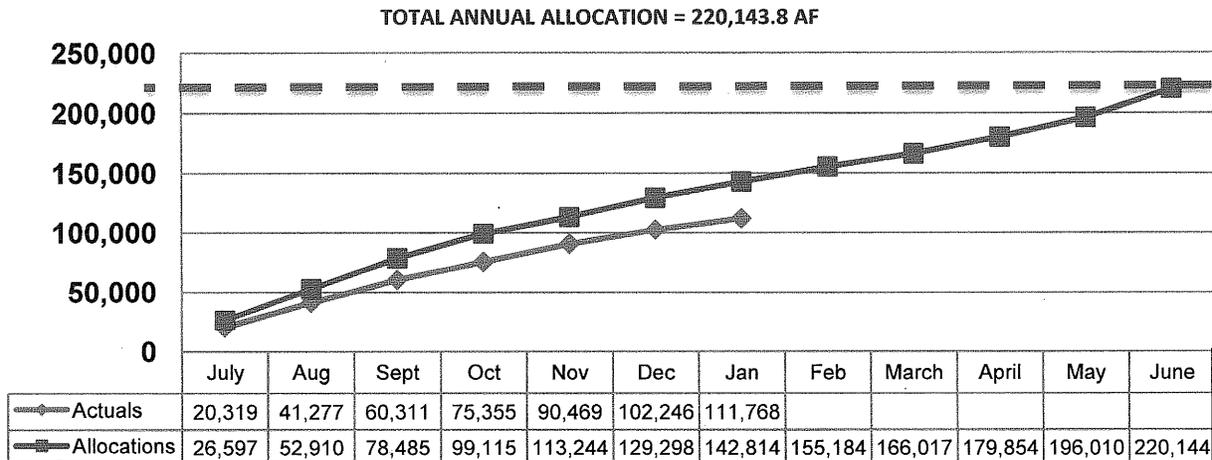


January 2011 billed consumption City departments was almost 10% lower than usage a year ago.

**Meeting the CWA Allocation**

The City of San Diego’s Fiscal Year 2011 total allocation from the CWA is 220,143.8 acre-feet (AF) in water deliveries. Chart C shows this annual target broken down into monthly targets and, when comparing the actual water deliveries through January to the monthly targets, the City is 21.7% below its allocation target.

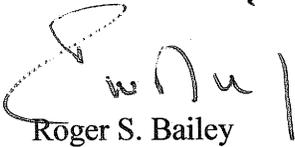
**Chart C – Water Deliveries Target**



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**Water Waste Enforcement**

With regards to water waste enforcement, more than 7,518 complaints were received through January 31, 2011, since the restrictions began in June 2009. A total of 105 cases have been referred to Code Enforcement Officers due to non-action, and one citation carrying a \$100 fine was issued.



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LSG/lsg

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