



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2010
TO: Natural Resources and Culture Committee – Agenda of March 17, 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

Have the recent rain storms significantly contributed to our water supply? A look at regional and local snowpack and rain totals provided below shows the following:

State Water Project

1. Snowpack in the Sierras is at 110% of normal, as of March 4, 2010. This time last year, snowpack was at 90% of normal.
2. The Northern Sierra 8-station index recorded total precipitation at 102% of normal as of March 3, 2010, which is about the same as last year.
3. Reservoir levels have also shown some improvement over the last year.

Storage Levels at Regional Reservoirs, as of March 3, 2010

	Capacity	% Full (2010)	% Full (2009)
Lake Oroville (DWR)	4.55 MAF	40%	43%
Lake Shasta (DWR)	3.47 MAF	76%	49%
San Luis Reservoir (DWR)	1.47 MAF	72%	42%

Colorado River

1. Snow water equivalent* in the Upper Basin is at 81% of average, as of March 4, 2010.
2. Storage at 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.

Regional and Local Reservoirs

1. Metropolitan Water District's Diamond Lake is 48% full. This time last year, it was 50% full.
2. City of San Diego reservoirs, as of March 1, 2010, are at an average 52% of capacity, with room to capture runoff in anticipation of additional rainfall.
3. Total rainfall to-date in San Diego is 8.06 inches or 105% of normal, as of March 4, 2010.

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

While there are some improvements in precipitation and storage levels over last year, the reservoirs where San Diego's imported water comes from are still showing effects of a three-year drought. And with the regulatory restrictions affecting pumping from the Bay-Delta, City staff plans to continue its water conservation message in preparation for the Spring and Summer water demand. The San Diego County Water Authority is expected to announce FY 2011 water allocations in May.

Water Use Reduction in Fiscal Year 2010

Given the timing of the Natural Resources and Culture Committee's March meeting and the subsequent deadline for submitting reports, the water billed consumption data for February was not available and was not included in this written report. However, the data will be available and presented at the March 17 meeting.

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

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Water Waste Enforcement

With regards to water waste enforcement, over 4,306 complaints were received during the first 9 months of mandatory conservation. A total of 47 cases have been referred to Code Enforcement Officers due to non-action. No citations that carry fines have been issued.



Alex Ruiz

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LSG/lsg

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