

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

235



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
September 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Departmental Quarterly Water Conservation Update. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Receive and File the attached Departmental Quarterly Water Conservation Update.

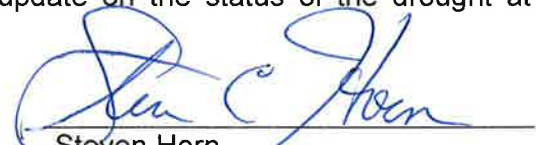
BACKGROUND:

Summary

At the Board of Supervisors drought workshop on May 18, 2015, county staff was tasked with the following:

- Providing quarterly updates on departmental water conservation status;
- Exploring a mechanism for residents to report water waste;
- Exploring the creation of a water efficiency rebate program for residents in the unincorporated areas of the county, and;
- Revising Ordinance 859.2 *Water Efficient Landscape Requirements*

The attached report contains these updates and provides an update on the status of the drought at present in California and Riverside County.


 Steven Horn
 Senior Management Analyst

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A				Budget Adjustment: N/A	
				For Fiscal Year: N/A	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: 
Alex Gann

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Positions Added
- Change Order
- A-30
- 4/5 Vote



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

As shown in the graphic below, the majority of California, including Riverside County, remains in a moderate to extreme drought condition. According to a news article published on July 30, 2015, by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Cal Tech¹, California on average has accumulated roughly twenty-inches of rain deficit due to the past three extremely dry winters and experienced a similar deficit accumulation between 1986 and 1994. As elaborated on the following pages, County departments continue their water use reductions, informational outreach to the regulated business community, and strengthening of partnerships with local water agencies.

U.S. Drought Monitor California

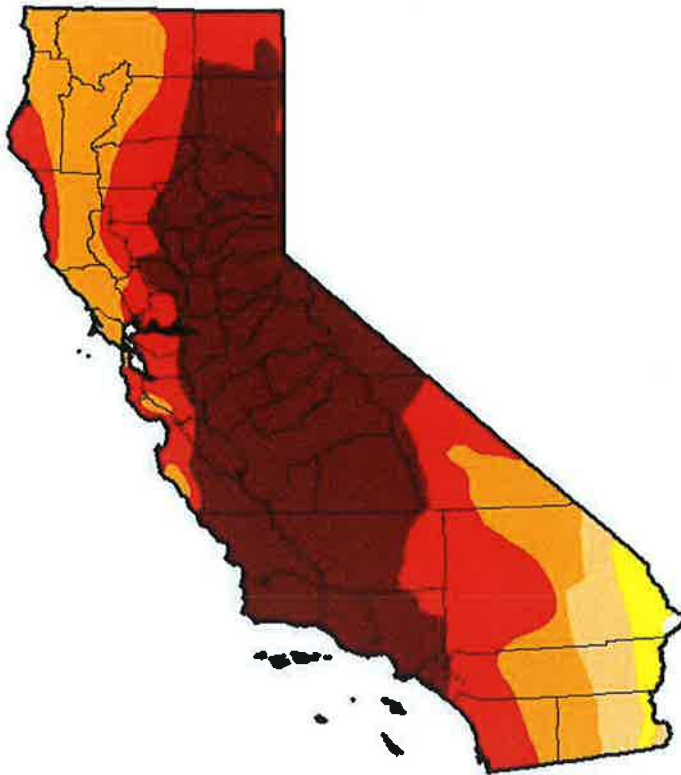
September 8, 2015

(Released Thursday, Sep. 10, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.14	99.86	97.35	92.36	71.08	46.00
Last Week 8/1/2015	0.14	99.86	97.35	92.36	71.08	46.00
3 Months Ago 6/9/2015	0.14	99.86	98.71	93.91	71.08	46.73
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2014	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
Start of Water Year 8/30/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
One Year Ago 9/9/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

¹ <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=4673>



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Departmental Water Conservation Status Updates

Economic Development Agency/Facilities Management (EDA/FM)

EDA/FM reports that for the fourth quarter period of FY 13/14 compared to the same period in FY 14/15 overall reduction in county facility potable water use equaled almost 21% savings countywide. This translated into a monetary savings of approximately \$540,000, or a reduction of approximately 7%.

The department continues its efforts to convert turf and overhead sprinklers to drought tolerant planting and drip systems where feasible and when funding is available. Further, the department has identified several grant opportunities from upcoming Proposition 1 solicitations and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs – Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program that may be applicable to departmental operations.

Department of Environmental Health (DEH)

As part of the on-going water conservation efforts, DEH has developed the following Informational Bulletins in English and Spanish:

- Water Preservation Methods for Public Pool Facilities During Severe Drought Conditions
- Water, A Precious Resource (For Restaurants and Food Facilities)
- Gray Water Systems – Homeowners Guide (A Laundry to Landscape System Guide)

Additionally, these bulletins are available in DEH area offices and are being distributed by Environmental Health staff during the course of their routine inspections. They are also available online at <http://www.rivcoeh.org/>.

Additionally, in an effort to provide information and resources to those affected by water shortages, the Department's website has been updated to include the following helpful links:

- USDA Rural Development Program – Drought Assistance
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation Household Water Well System Loan Program
- Housing and Community Development regulations on residential and commercial gray water systems



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)

The District has completed development of a countywide water conservation website to assist residents and businesses with links to Riverside County specific water conservation rebates, tools and other information. Although many residents are served by larger, regional water agencies that actively and effectively promote such resources, there are also many residents who are served by smaller agencies or that may have private wells that do not have ready access to relevant information – particularly in portions of rural unincorporated Riverside County. This website will particularly benefit those communities. It may be accessed here:

<http://www.floodcontrol.co.riverside.ca.us/DroughtPortal/Default.aspx>

Additionally, the District has, with the assistance of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, the County of Riverside, and Rancho California Water District, secured over \$5,000,000 in water conservation grant funds to Riverside County to date. Most recently, the District assisted the County Parks Department with a \$300,000 grant application for turf conversion projects at Lake Skinner's recreational areas. The District has also successfully partnered with Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District to obtain a \$1,000,000 grant for construction of a stormwater capture and recharge project along Marshall and Noble Creeks within.

The District is also working cooperatively with local water agencies to look for opportunities to leverage District facilities to assist with increasing the stability and safe yield of local water resources. These projects are ongoing and include the following project partners:

- Western Municipal Water District: Arlington Desalter Expansion
- City of Riverside: District basins testing for potential stormwater capture
- City of Corona: Coldwater Canyon groundwater recharge enhancement study and Lincoln/Cota Basin Diversion Project
- Eastern Municipal Water District: San Jacinto River Recharge Basins
- Lake Hemet Water District: Bautista Recharge Basin Expansion and Little Lake Basin Recharge Retrofit
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District: Elsinore Line A Basin Expansion
- Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District: Noble Creek Recharge Basin stormwater capture enhancement



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Regional Parks and Open Space District (Parks)

Parks has completed or has several ongoing measures to enhance their water conservation programs and outreach throughout their areas of responsibility. These measures include:

- Turf Conversion: Removal of turf or conversion to drought tolerant landscape of 1.3 acres
- Turf Management: reduced turf irrigation between 25% and 50% to 11.5 acres of turf and eliminated irrigation to 11 additional acres for an estimated savings of 1.5 acre-feet monthly or approximately 489,000 gallons monthly.
- Indoor Measures: repaired plumbing leaks at Butterfield Community Center and at all park and recreation sites, replaced valves on restroom toilets at the Cove Waterpark
- Public Education: Posted water conservation signs at all parks where irrigation reduction, turf reduction, and turf conversion is taking place. Also posted signage at campground and day use areas encouraging customers to take additional measures for water use reduction, including shorter showers and banning use of small personal/kiddie pools.
- Grants: as previously mentioned, the department, with the assistance of the Executive Office and the Flood Control District applied for an Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Proposition 84 2015 Implementation Grant to convert additional turf at Lake Skinner to drought tolerant plants and add educational signage. Award status should be known by the end of the year.
- Other outdoor conservation: Parks reduced splash pad operation by >25% at three splash pads; modified backwash setting to increase the amount of time between backwash cycles at the Cove and DropZone waterparks, and deactivated the misters at the DropZone for an additional savings of 450,000 gallons per month.

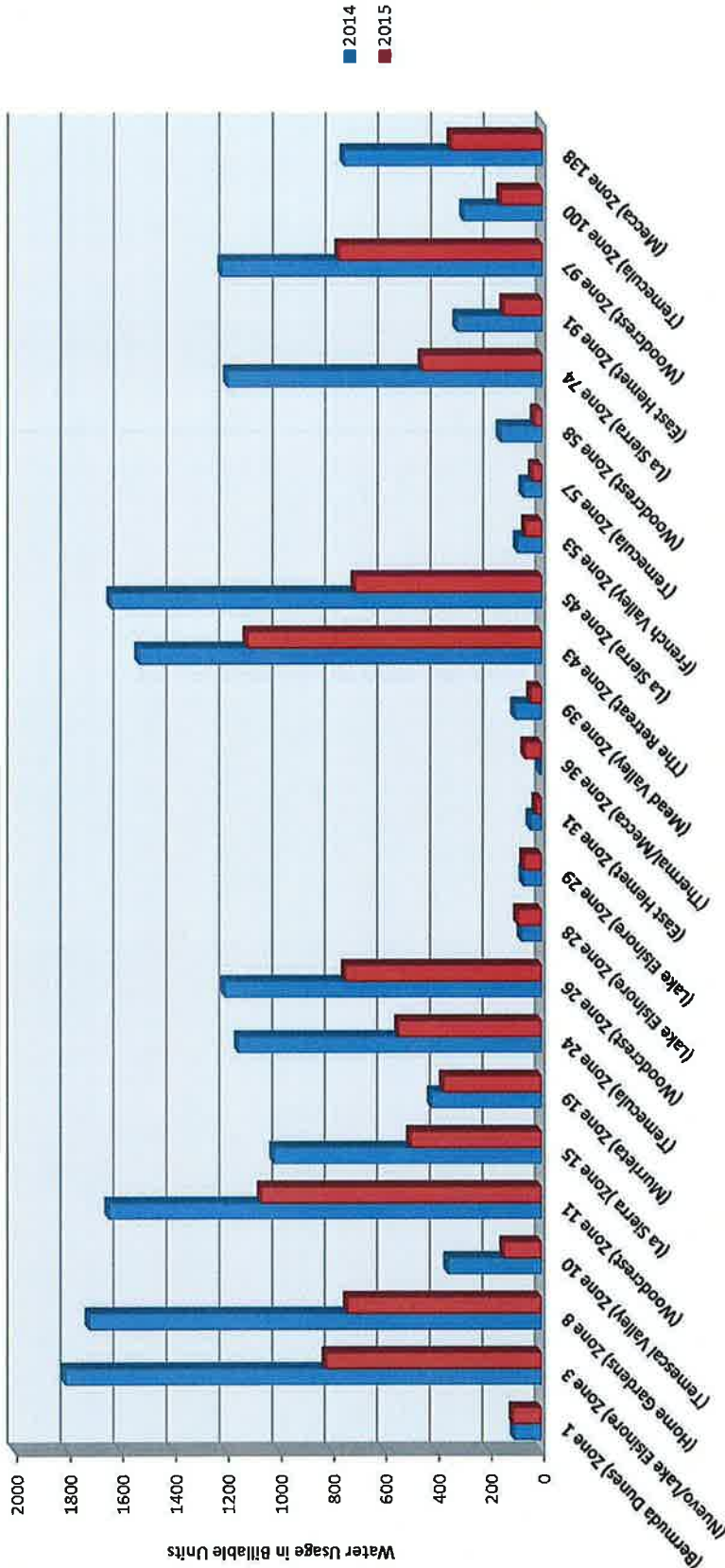
Transportation Department (Trans)

As the administrator for County Maintained Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District 89-1-Consolidated, Trans reports that increased conservation measures across all zones has yielded a 46% (~18-acre ft) decrease in the volume of water used which corresponds to a 28% dollar savings (~\$12,000). The period of savings is from May, June, and July of 2014 vs the same months of 2015. Please see the graphs below for additional details.



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

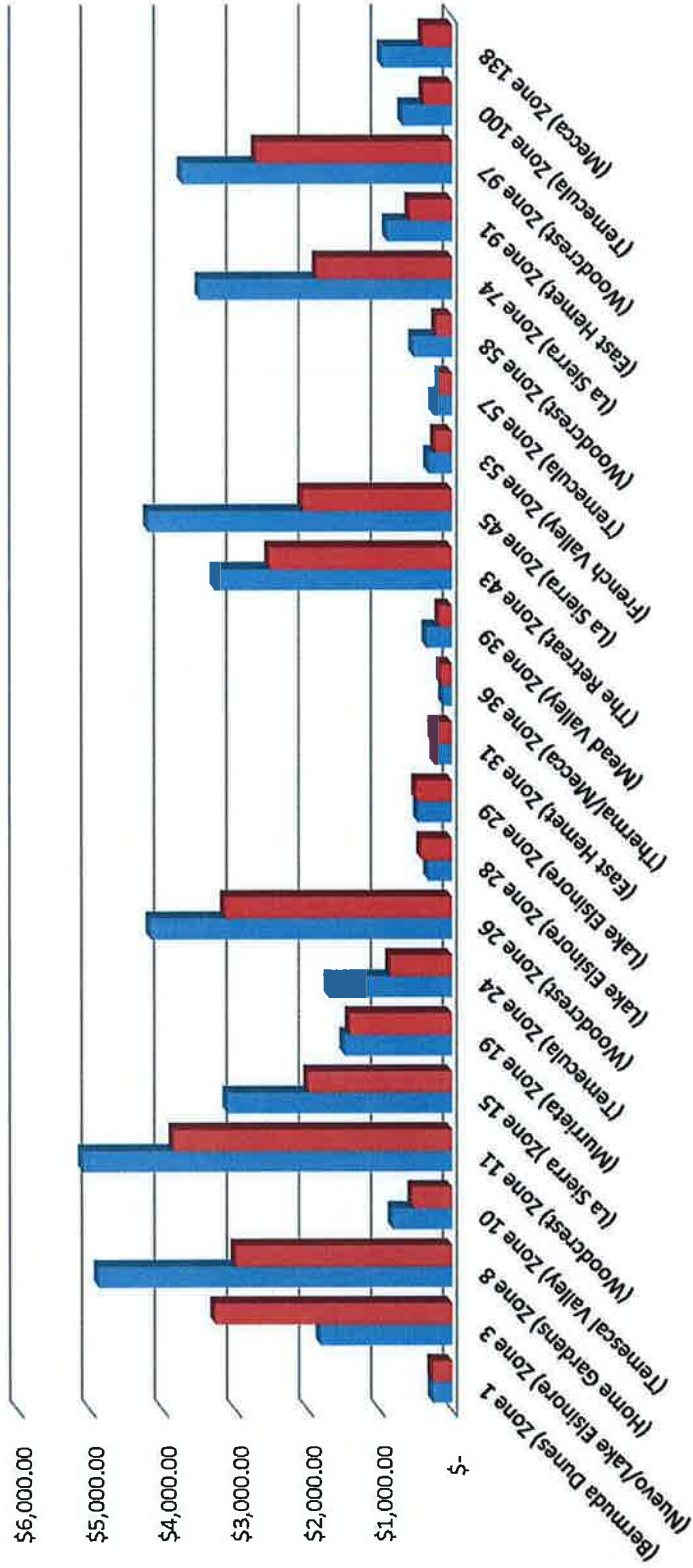
County Maintained L&LMD 89-1-Consolidated Zones
Water Usage





Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

County Maintained L&LMD 89-1-Consolidated Zones
Water Costs



■ 2014 ■ 2015



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Reporting Water Waste

All major water districts throughout Riverside County have the capability for residents to report water waste online within their jurisdiction. A few are website form based; landline telephone based, or are part of the iEfficient app available for download here: <http://iefficient.com/>. The table below provides direct links for residents who want to report water waste in their communities.

Agency	Website
Coachella Valley Water District	http://www.cvwd.org/FormCenter/Conservation-4/Report-Water-Waste-49
Eastern Municipal Water District	http://www.emwd.org/use-water-wisely/report-water-waste
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	http://www.evmwd.com/about/departments/public/drought.asp
Rancho California Water District	http://www.ranchowater.com/FormCenter/Forms-2/Report-a-Leak-33
Western Municipal Water District	http://www.wmwd.com/index.aspx?nid=391

Additionally, the State of California has created a mobile-friendly website that allows all Californian's to report water waste, regardless of where they live. This site can be accessed on a computer or on a mobile browser at: <http://savewater.ca.gov/>. If residents in the unincorporated areas of the county need further assistance identifying their water districts in order to report water waste, they may contact the Code Enforcement department at 951-955-2004 for assistance.

Rebate Program

The Executive Office, County Counsel, and EDA continue to explore options and the feasibility of creating a rebate incentive program for those residents in the unincorporated portions of the county that do not otherwise belong to a water utility that offers such rebates. Staff expects to bring forward a conceptual pilot program for consideration before year-end.

Ordinance 859.2 Update

On July 21, 2015, the Board unanimously approved adoption of Ordinance 859.3, an Urgency Ordinance of the County of Riverside amending ordinance 859.2 *Water Efficient Landscape Requirements*. This ordinance update took effect immediately, and among other provisions, prohibited the use of natural turf grass in front yards of new residential subdivisions. Staff proposes to include an update to the Board regarding implementation in the next quarterly departmental drought conservation update.