

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

731
(2364)



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
September 15, 2016

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The attached Departmental Quarterly Water Conservation Update highlights the current and ongoing efforts that each applicable county department has undertaken in the past three months to conserve water where possible. Current fall and winter weather predictions in Southern California indicate that a weak La Niña condition may appear, but it is too soon to say with certainty. Historically, weak La Niña's in Southern California equate to average winter weather patterns. Regardless of the unpredictable weather trend, county departments continue their commitment to find ways to maximize water savings, educate stakeholders, and leverage grant opportunities where feasible in order to reduce the county's overall water consumption.

Departmental Concurrence


 Steven Horn
 Principal Management Analyst

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

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 2.5 of 5/17/2016

District: ALL

Agenda Number:

2-2

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FORM 11: Quarterly Water Conservation Update. All Districts [\$0]**

DATE: September 15, 2016

PAGE: 2 of 2

Background Continued:

As previously reported during the last quarterly drought update, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16 (Order) in May of 2016 which updates temporary water restrictions contained in previous Emergency Proclamations and Executive Orders, and begins to transition them to permanent, long term improvements. The highlights of this Order include directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to: adjust current emergency water conservation regulations, work with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), urban water supplies, local governments, and others to develop new water use targets as part of a permanent framework for urban water agencies. Furthermore, the Order notes that the SWRCB shall permanently prohibit:

- Hosing off of sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscapes;
- Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle;
- Using non-recirculating water in a fountain or other decorative water feature;
- Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff, or within 48 hours of measurable precipitation; and
- Irrigating ornamental turn on public street medians

Additionally, the Order states that DWR will be tasked with strengthening requirements for urban Water Shortage Contingency Plans and subsequently work with affected stakeholders to implement such requirements. Further, DWR will work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders to update existing requirements for Agricultural Water Management Plans and require that such plans are prepared and adhered to by water suppliers with over 10,000 irrigated acres of land.

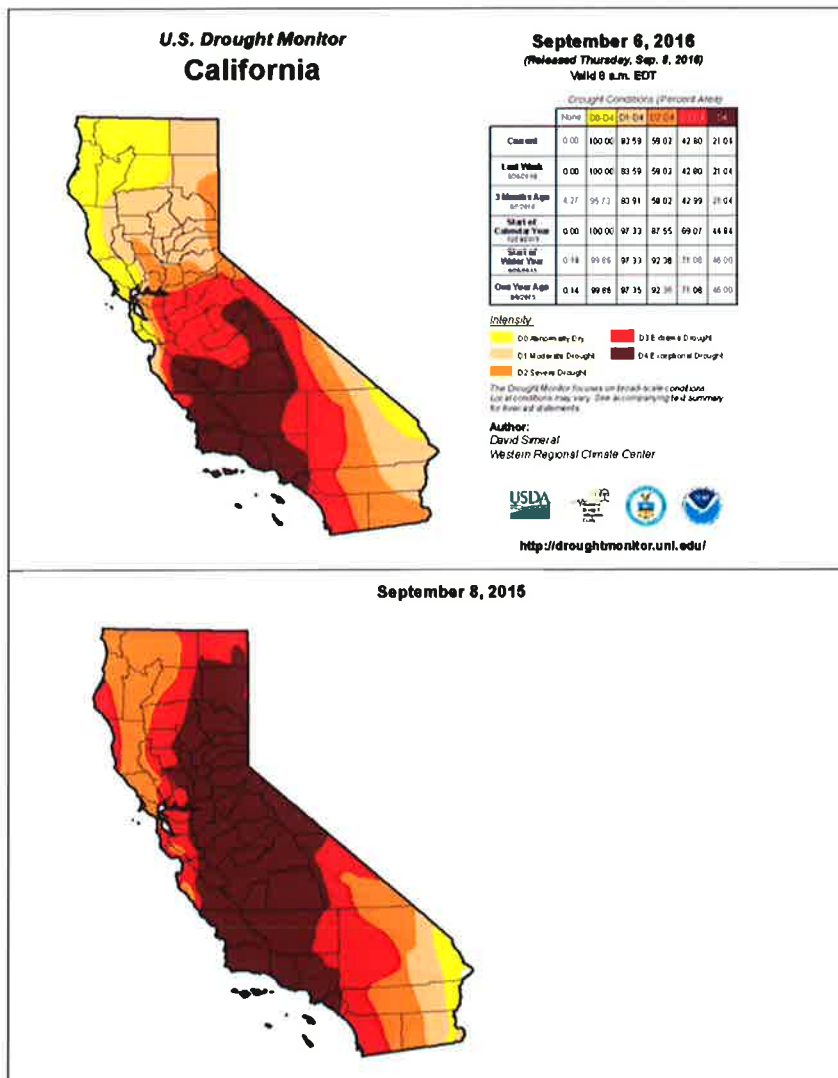
The full text of Governor's Executive Order B-37-16 may be accessed here:
https://www.gov.ca.gov/docs/5.9.16_Executive_Order.pdf

In light of this recent Order, it should be noted that county departments continue their adherence to current prohibitions (as bulleted above) from the previous Executive Orders concerning the elimination of water waste and increasing water use efficiency. The requirement for the SWRCB to make these measures permanent should have little to no effect on county departments but are anticipated to be publicly introduced in January 2017.



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

As shown in the graphics below, the majority of California, including Riverside County, remains in an abnormally dry to an extreme drought condition. This condition has improved since the previous water conservation update in May of 2016 and overall throughout the state as compared to the previous year. As mentioned in the previous drought report, the positive change is attributed to increased rainfall in Northern California, which filled several of the state's key reservoirs. However, unlike last year, Southern California, including Riverside County, hasn't received the monsoonal rainfall that occurred last year during the summer months. These summer storm systems resulted in Riverside County receiving almost two inches of rain at some locations last year. The trend thus far has been more of a typical summer: hot and dry. As elaborated on the following pages, County departments continue their effort to reduce water consumption where possible; provide informational outreach to the regulated business community, and strengthening of partnerships with local water agencies. The County Executive Office, together with multiple county departments, continues to stay engaged with the Riverside County Water Task Force.





Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Departmental Water Conservation Status Updates

Economic Development Agency/Facilities Management (EDA/FM)

The EDA Energy Division continues its collaboration with Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) to provide recycled water for irrigation to the Department of Public Health facility located at 14539 Innovation Drive, in Riverside (RV0376). The State Water Board has not yet approved the proposal and testing submittals that will allow recycled water to be brought to the site. In the meantime, the Energy Division is giving support to the Regional Medical Center in their consideration of a project to bring recycled water to that campus.

The Energy Division continues to closely review water bills and drought fines. Where the water budget or drought fines are suspect, division staff is challenging the validity of the bill. In many cases, several of the water agencies who do not have the correct building information are not able to adjust water budgets without a cost to the county. The division will have to conduct an analysis of these costs to determine if purchasing additional Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) is actually cost effective or not.

In partnership with the Maintenance Division, the Energy Division applied for Metropolitan Water District's Public Agency Landscape Program. The program was expected to provide all of the funding to complete the installation of high efficiency water devices at various county facilities. It is becoming apparent that the funds supplied are insufficient to complete the projects without significant influx of additional funding. The division is evaluating whether or not it is cost effective to continue to pursue funding from this program.

In an effort to increase the awareness of water conservation, the Energy Division sent a "Water Conservation Tips" email blast to all county employees. In addition to providing measures for saving water, the email had an attachment that would help employees save water at home. The document listed over 35 water agencies that provide water service in Riverside County and their requirements for water conservation that will help employees avoid unnecessary fines.



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Department of Environmental Health (DEH)

The Department of Environmental Health continues to promote water conservation efforts with its on-going education and outreach both on its website and during routine inspections of food and pool facilities that the department regulates. Staff continues to provide informational bulletins related to water conservation, gray water usage, and to assist those impacted by the drought as it pertains to programs under its authority.

Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)

The District continues to tune and refine countywide water conservation website to assist residents and businesses with links to Riverside County specific water conservation rebates, tools and other information. It may be accessed here:

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

The District continues to seek out partnership and grant opportunities for storm water capture projects. Our grant supported Bautista Recharge Basin expansion partnership with Lake Hemet Water District is also ongoing. The District is also collaborating with local water agencies on non-grant funded projects to increase the stability and safe yield of local water resources by repurposing existing and future District facilities. These partnerships include:

- Western Municipal Water District: Arlington Desalter Expansion.
- City of Riverside: Evaluation of Columbia, Marlborough, Box Springs and Kansas basins for recharge potential.
- 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: Little Lake Basin Recharge Retrofit
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District: Elsinore Line A Basin Recharge Project

The District has also just completed infiltration and percolation testing of several other dams and detention basins to determine their recharge viability. This information will be shared with local water agencies in an effort to identify additional partnership opportunities. To date, the District estimates that, through these partnerships with local water agencies, approximately 25,000 acre feet of storm water have been recharged into area aquifers to the benefit of Riverside County residents.



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 Management: continued reduced irrigation frequencies between 25% and 50% from the prior year. All irrigation systems have been and continue to be turned off when rain was in the forecast.
- Indoor Measures: repaired plumbing leaks and broken sprinkler heads at all park and recreation facilities.
- Public Education: continued outreach to customers regarding water conservation efforts at all facilities.

Other outdoor conservation: Lake Skinner's splash pad will be reconstructed by summer 2017 with newer equipment, which will increase the water use efficiency and reduce water runoff of this very popular attraction.

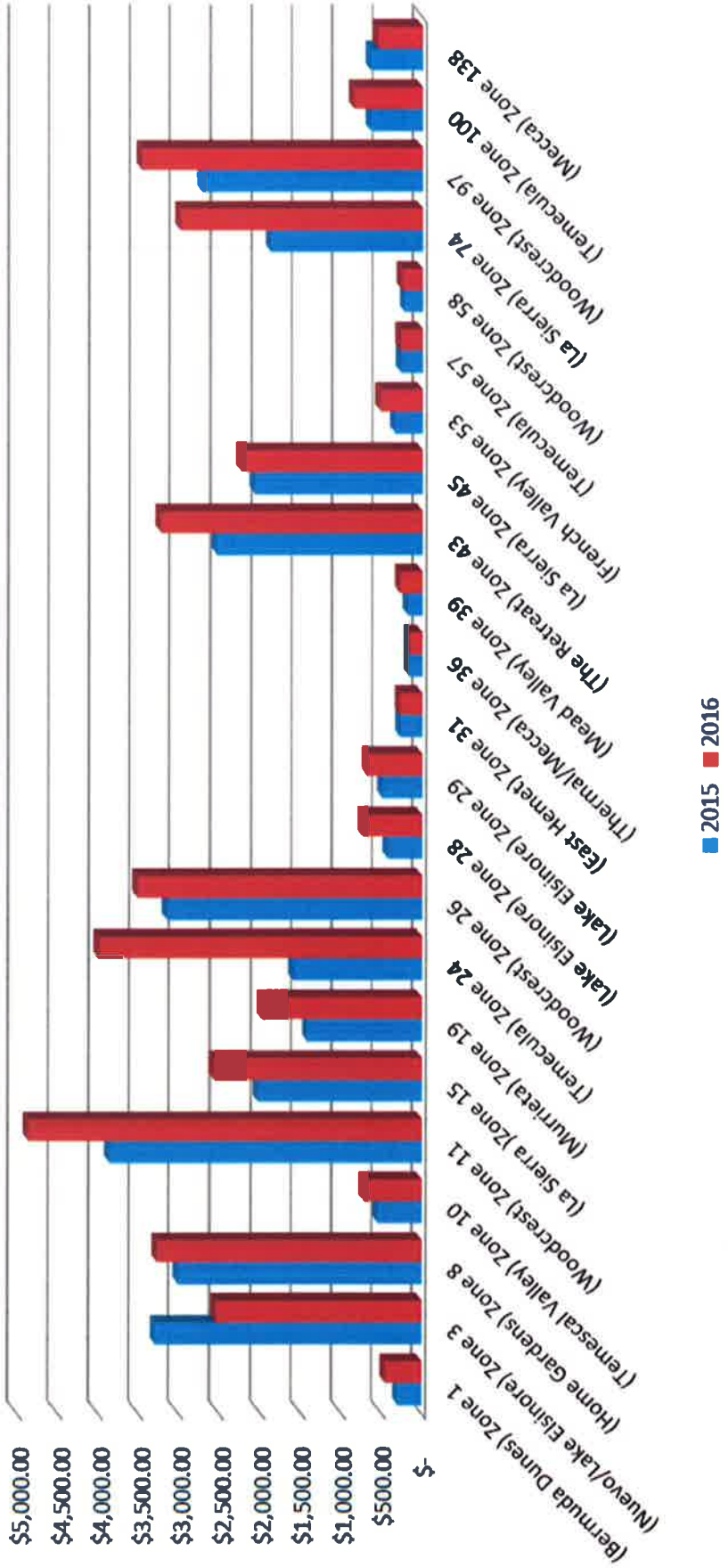
Transportation Department (Trans)

As the administrator for County Maintained Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District 89-1-Consolidated, Trans reports increased usage of water for landscaping during this period compared to the same period last year as shown in the graphs on the following pages. This is likely due to detrimental plant health and the periods of heat during February and March. Trans will continue to monitor the use within the consolidated zones and make adjustments as necessary in order to balance water use and plant health.



Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

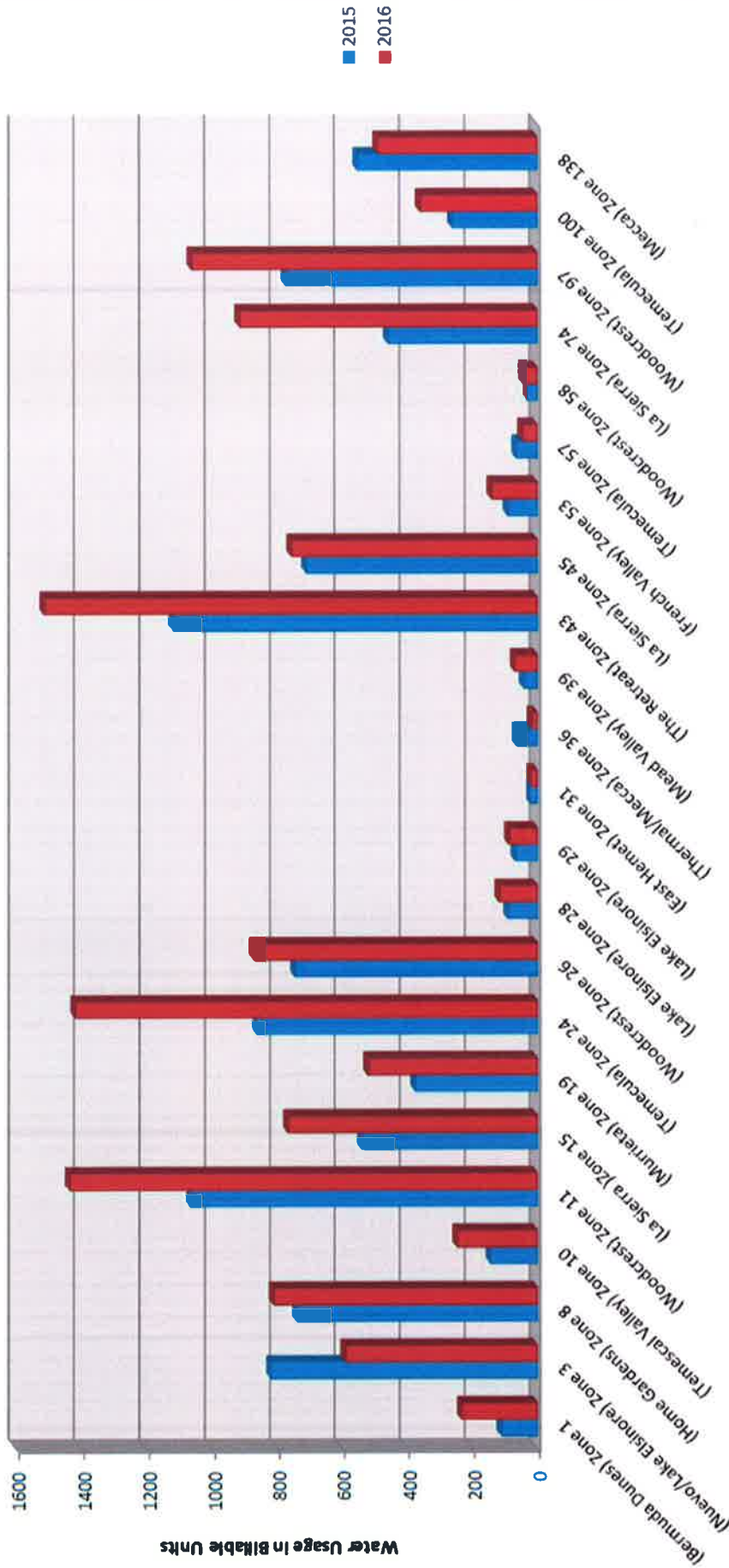
County Maintained L&MD 89-1-Consolidated Zones Water Costs





Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

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





Riverside County Departmental Water Conservation Update

Water Use Reductions

The matrix below represents the current water use reductions, with corresponding fee increases or decreases for the departments that manage a majority of the water use at County facilities.

Dep.	Base Year Q4 FY 2014-2015 Usage CCF*	Current Year Q4 FY 2015-2016 Usage CCF	Usage Reduction (%)	Base Year Q4 FY 2014- 2015 Cost	Current Year Q4 FY 2015- 2016 Cost	Cost Reduction (%)
EDA/FM	200,787	179,860	10%	\$ 537,226.00	\$ 548,906.00	-2%
Parks	267,186	194,230	27%	\$ 362,017.00	\$ 307,491.00	15%
TLMA	9,723	12,519	-29%	\$ 32,034.29	\$ 40,432.60	-26%
<i>Total</i>	477,696	386,609	3%	\$ 931,277.29	\$ 896,829.60	-4%

*1 CCF = 748 Gallons

Total Gallons Saved this Quarter: **68,133,076**
Compared to last year (same period)

Total Cost Decrease this Quarter: **\$ 34,447.69**
Compared to last year (same period)

As shown in the above table, the county departments collectively saved ~68M gallons of water during this period, even though some uses increased. This reduction resulted in a savings of \$34,447.69 compared to the same period last year. County departments continue optimizing and evaluating their systems to ensure that water reduction strategies are incorporated into daily operations to the maximum extent practical.