

**Executive Directive #5**  
**Issue Date: October 14, 2014**

Subject: Emergency Drought Response – Creating a Water Wise City

**Introduction**

Los Angeles and California as a whole are currently experiencing extreme drought conditions. The just completed 2013–2014 rain season was the seventh driest year in Los Angeles since recordkeeping began in 1877. The combined last three years represent the third driest 3-year stretch on record. 92 percent of the state is suffering from extreme drought.

The drought has led our City to increase use of imported water to over 80% of consumption.

Imported water is costly. Furthermore, our imported water supply is at immediate and long term risk because of the impacts of global warming, which include a reduction in the Sierra snowpack, the key water supplier for much of California.

The Metropolitan Water District, our major supplier of imported water, expects to curtail supplies in the next 12 months. In addition, Los Angeles could face extreme hardship in the event of an earthquake that severs the aqueducts that deliver water here.

Reducing imported water use is of critical importance to Los Angeles. City government and the people of Los Angeles must take steps to confront this crisis, both in the short and long term. In particular, reducing outdoor water use is critical to solving this crisis as it accounts for more than half of all residential water use in Los Angeles.

Therefore, I am directing the following actions to achieve the following goals:

- A reduction in per capita potable water use by 20% by 2017.
- A reduction in the Department of Water and Power's purchase of imported potable water by 50% by 2024.
- The creation of an integrated water strategy that increases local water supplies and that improves water security in the context of climate change and seismic vulnerability.

**IMMEDIATE ACTIONS – GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS**

To address the immediate drought conditions, I hereby order the following actions:

- Irrigation with potable water at all City buildings and street medians will be restricted to no more than two days per week. Facilities will be required to post their watering schedules. City properties irrigated with drip irrigation systems are exempt from this requirement.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks, having reduced its potable water consumption by 30% since 2007, shall water only as much as is necessary to maintain tree and plant health as well as public recreational facilities, while

further reducing its potable water consumption by 10% compared to fiscal year 13/14.

- Within 90 days, the Department of Recreation and Parks, in collaboration with the Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Sanitation, shall present a plan to convert 85% of public golf course acreage to recycled water by 2017 and shall determine the feasibility of converting 100% of golf course acreage to 100% non-potable water.
- Within 90 days, all relevant city departments shall report to the General Services Department on the feasibility of converting all city car washing facilities to use 100% recirculated water.
- Within 90 days, the General Services Department, in collaboration with the Department of Recreation and Parks, shall initiate a program of turf replacement at appropriate municipal buildings using all available rebates and incentives.
- Within 90 days, the Bureau of Street Services shall present a plan to convert feasible street medians to low and no water use landscaping using all available rebates for funding.
- Within 90 days, the Department of Public Works shall incorporate all appropriate drought tolerant, permeable materials into the standard parkway materials list – for which no permit is required – in its Residential Parkway Landscape Guidelines.
- The City Council has introduced and passed a number of motions regarding water saving technologies in buildings and landscapes. Accordingly, within 90 days, the Department of Building and Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Sanitation, shall compile and propose to City Council a list of potential building code changes for new and retrofitted buildings. These potential changes shall include, but not be limited to, the following: indoor water fixtures, dual indoor/outdoor water metering, reductions in outdoor water budgets, rainwater and greywater capture and use on site, process water and greywater/blackwater treatment and reuse systems, dewatering, swimming pool covers, and individual water meters or submeters on new multi-family construction.
- All relevant City departments shall educate the public on water conservation measures via websites and other existing mediums.

#### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS – PROPRIETARY DEPARTMENTS:**

I am instructing the Board of Water and Power Commissioners to ensure that the following actions are taken by DWP:

- Restrict irrigation with potable water to no more than two days per week and post in a public place scheduled watering day(s) at each facility. Properties irrigated with drip irrigation systems may be made exempt from this watering days restriction.
- Increase rebates for residential turf removal to \$3.75 per square foot for the first 1,500 square feet of turf and stepping down to \$2 per square foot for turf removal

above 1,500 square feet, while maintaining the tiered commercial rebate at its current level.

- Increase rebates for rain barrels, including interconnection piping and control systems, to \$100 per barrel.
- Within 90 days, present plans for turf replacement and reduction in indoor water use at its facilities.
- Within 90 days, as part of its Water Loss Audit Task Force, report back on the development of an enhanced leak detection and protection program to reduce water loss and main breakage from DWP's pipe system.
- Within 90 days, develop a plan to disclose, via a public database, water use at each City-owned facility, including its own facilities and those of other proprietary departments. The database is to be updated with each facility's billing cycle.
- Within 90 days, report on the potential to establish additional cost-effective commercial, industrial, and residential rebate and/or educational programs for reducing water use such as laundry-to-landscape greywater systems, swimming pool covers, drought tolerant landscaping, and other measures.
- Within 90 days, present a report on the potential impacts of climate change upon our future water supplies, as well as estimate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from reduced imported water purchases from MWD.
- Using existing resources, create a renewed strategic communications plan to educate Angelenos on voluntary actions we are encouraging (see below), including but not limited to: a regular and ongoing recognition program to publicize innovative and creative ways that Angelenos – residential and business customers – are reducing water use across the City; combining water and energy efficiency incentives and public education to the maximum extent possible; and other strategies.

Furthermore, I am instructing the Board of Airport Commissioners and the Board of Harbor Commissioners to ensure that the following actions are taken by their respective departments:

- Restrict irrigation with potable water to no more than two days per week and post in a public place scheduled watering day(s) at each facility. Properties irrigated with drip irrigation systems may be made exempt from this watering days restriction.
- Within 90 days, present plans for turf replacement and reduction in indoor water use at their facilities.
- Participate in City and DWP-led education and outreach campaigns to encourage visitors, customers, and employees about ways to conserve water.

All plans shall be submitted to me and the Chair of the Water Cabinet as detailed below. Once approved, reports and relevant metrics of progress on plans shall be submitted monthly (or an otherwise agreed to frequency) to me and the Chair of the Water Cabinet.

#### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS – RESIDENTS:**

In addition to these mandatory items, I hereby call on Angelenos to:

- **Voluntarily reduce their outdoor watering from three to two days.**
- **Replace turf lawns** with native and climate-appropriate landscaping during the optimal Fall/Winter planting season, utilizing DWP rebates for turf removal.
- **Replace any remaining high water use plumbing fixtures and appliances** with low-flow fixtures and appliances using consumer rebates provided by the Department of Water and Power.
- **Ensure pools have pool covers** to reduce water evaporation.

If the above mandatory and voluntary actions do not reduce water consumption by 10% by July 1, 2015, by 15% by January 1, 2016, and by 20% by January 1, 2017, (compared to a July 1, 2014 baseline of 130 GPD), I will instruct the Board of Water and Power Commissioners to propose new mandatory water restrictions. These restrictions shall include limits on outdoor watering to two days a week (or fewer if necessary), require the covering of and/or prohibit the filling of residential swimming pools with potable water, and require all car washing to take place at commercial car washes with recirculating water.

### **WATER CABINET**

To ensure that City agencies are accountable and take the actions needed to successfully reach these goals, I am immediately forming a Mayoral Water Cabinet composed of the following:

- Deputy Mayor for City Services (Chair)
- Chief Sustainability Officer
- General Manager, Department of Water and Power
- Director, Bureau of Sanitation
- Senior Assistant General Manager, Water System, Department of Water and Power
- Assistant Director, Bureau of Sanitation
- General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks
- One of the City of Los Angeles's representatives to the Metropolitan Water District
- One member of the Proposition O Citizens Advisory Oversight Committee

In addition to overseeing progress toward meeting the City's water policy goals, the Cabinet will identify additional goals and critical areas requiring focused effort. In particular, the Water Cabinet is responsible for approving and monitoring implementation of all plans and actions required by this Executive Directive and for focusing on three long-term issues:

- Increasing local water supply via an integrated water strategy. This includes an integrated City-wide and regional strategy for groundwater remediation, stormwater capture and storage, green infrastructure, recycled water, and conservation. Key projects that the Water Cabinet will oversee include the

Tillman Advanced Water Treatment Facility, San Fernando Valley aquifer cleanup, the repurposing of Silver Lake Reservoir, and Terminal Island treatment capacity expansion.

- Assessing the current tiered water rate system and identifying ways to improve it so that it optimally encourages conservation and reduces the use of imported water.
- Taking a leadership position in driving state policies and regulations toward the implementation of indirect and direct potable water reuse and enhanced methods of stormwater capture and reuse.

The Water Cabinet will meet at least monthly and be responsible for ensuring effective coordination and cooperation with other city agencies, along with representatives from key County and State Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and large water users in the commercial and industrial sectors. I request that all other City Departments, Bureaus, Agencies, Boards, and Commissions support the Water Cabinet as needed.

Finally, the city will continue its work to conserve water and address climate change through the pending citywide sustainability plan.