

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

WATER UTILITIES - WATER CONSERVATION

OCEANSIDE RETURNS TO LEVEL ONE DROUGHT WATCH Strong Conservation Efforts Pay Off as the Drought Level is Reduced and Living WaterSmart Becomes a Way of Life

In June 2015, the State of California mandated a 25% reduction in statewide water use. Due to past conservation efforts, Oceanside's mandate started at 20%, and was then reduced to 12%.

In June 2016, the City of Oceanside worked collaboratively with the Water Authority and 23 other San Diego County Member Agencies to certify that sufficient water supplies exist to provide for the region should severe drought conditions continue for at least three more years.

This new approach to managing water supply constraints is largely due to the State's realization that drought response is not a "one size fits all" solution, and these regional differences call for individualized approaches to determining supply sufficiency.

For the San Diego County region, adequate supplies were due in large part from construction of the Poseidon Desalination Plant, along with local water supply projects being developed at Oceanside and other member agencies.

With sufficient water supplies comes Oceanside's move from Drought Level 2 (and assigned watering days) to a Drought Level 1 (with the flexibility to water any day of the week).

The return to a Level 1 Drought Watch maintains ongoing regulations to discourage water waste and promote the long-term efficiencies we hope to adopt in everyday life.

These requirements include:

- Irrigate landscape before 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.
- Use a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or a bucket to water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system.
- Use recirculated water when operating ornamental fountains.
- Cease washing down paved surfaces, including but not limited to sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or patios, except when it is necessary to alleviate safety or sanitation hazards.
- Eliminate water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, low head drainage, or overspray. Similarly, stop water flows onto non-targeted areas, such as adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, hardscapes, roadways, or structures.
- Wash vehicles using a bucket and a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, mobile high pressure/low volume wash system, or at a commercial site that recirculates water on-site.



- Serve and refill water in restaurants and other food service establishments only upon request.
- Offer hotel guests the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.
- Repair all water leaks within five (5) days of notification.
- Use recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available.
- Do not use potable water to irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians.
- Do not irrigate landscape during and 48 hours following a rain event.

The extraordinary water saving efforts by Oceanside residents and businesses has resulted in a water use reduction of over 18% since July 2014 and contributed to the City's compliance with state-mandated reductions and certification of supply sufficiency through 2020.

Thanks go out to all of our customers as we continue moving forward with a commitment to conservation and smart water use.



Conservation. IT'S FOR LIFE.

FUNDING FOR TURF REMOVAL IS BACK

For qualified applicants, incentives will provide a reimbursement of \$1.75 per square foot to replace water-intensive turf grass with landscaping that provides an array of environmental benefits.

The incentive program requires rainwater capture and detention, soil enhancements, climate-appropriate plants, water-efficient irrigation methods and site inspections.

Funding for these incentives is limited and is being provided by a grant from the state Department of Water Resources.

To be eligible, sites must have:

- Existing turf grass. **DO NOT** remove your turf grass before you apply and are officially enrolled in the program. The incentives will not provide reimbursement for the replacement or installation of artificial turf.
- An operational, in-ground sprinkler system.

The application process will require homeowners to calculate storm water runoff and capture, and show how much of the new landscape will be covered by water-efficient plants. Additional requirements will be available when the program launches.

Other conditions apply. It is the responsibility of interested parties to review all program eligibility requirements for applying.

Pre-register and save your spot at <http://sustainablelandscapesd.org/incentives/>.