

San Diego County Embraces WaterSmart Living

Investments in drought-resilient water supplies mean the San Diego region has all of the water needed to sustain our \$222 billion economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents even after five years of drought, and we are no longer under emergency state mandates to reduce water use. But that doesn't mean we can waste water.

In fact, making the most of every drop is always important in semi-arid San Diego County. That's why Oceanside, along with the San Diego County Water Authority and its 23 other member agencies have launched the Live WaterSmart campaign just in time for the peak water-use months of August and September.

Living WaterSmart means that we stay focused on everyday actions that make the best use of our precious water supplies. We do that by washing full loads of laundry and dishes, looking for and fixing leaks and overspray in irrigation systems, and replacing lawns with climate-appropriate plants.

The Water Authority, in connection with the City of Oceanside, offers plenty of resources to help, including free water-use checkups for homes and businesses that offer customized advice about actions that will yield water savings. Other helpful tools and programs include:

- ◆ Award-winning water-efficient landscaping classes for homeowners
- ◆ An on-demand video version of the classes
- ◆ A new online water use analytics tool and customer portal
- ◆ QWEL – Qualified Water-Efficient Landscaper program to train landscaping professionals
- ◆ A water-waste reporting hotline and smartphone app
- ◆ Rebates for highly efficient irrigation equipment, toilets and other devices

Later this summer, the Water Authority and its partners in the San Diego Sustainable Landscapes Program plan to roll out a new incentive program for people who want to remove their turf to achieve greater water-use efficiency and other environmental benefits.

Details about these and other water-saving resources can be found at WaterSmartSD.org or by visiting the City of Oceanside's website at http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/water/services_programs/save/programs_n_rebates/default.asp

