



DATE: August 10, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 5

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Water Conservation

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss water consumption and conservation efforts

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission appointed a Subcommittee of Commissioners Eyre, Weiden and Halkola to determine methods for achieving the State's goals for reductions in water consumption. To this effort, the Subcommittee continues to: 1) review and report on water conservation efforts within Santa Clara County; 2) explore model water conservation ordinances and enforcement procedures; 3) gather water consumption data from the City of Los Altos water retailer, Cal Water; 4) formulate water consumption data to display annual and monthly usage in the Climate Action Plan Dashboard; 5) provide education and outreach efforts to residents and commercial establishments in Los Altos; 6) utilize resources from the Santa Clara County Valley Water District; and 7) analyze the provisions in the current City of Los Altos Water Conservation Resolution to determine the effectiveness of water reduction efforts.

At the Environmental Commission/Council Joint Meeting on March 17, 2015, Council advised the Commission that water conservation for the City is a major priority. Council encouraged the Commission to continue its Work Plan goal and projects on water conservation and to advise Council on the actions needed to attain the State's water reduction goals.

The Subcommittee efforts continue to provide reports to the Commission that result in discussions and lead to the formulation of recommendations to Council.

In September 2014, the Subcommittee began to explore opportunities for Cal Water Service, Purissima Hills Water District, the Town of Los Altos Hills and the City of Los Altos Environmental Commission to work together on the topic of Water Innovation for a public education and outreach effort to the joint communities. The Water Innovation seminar was held on March 12, 2015. The Subcommittee gave its report about the seminar at the April 13, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting.

The Subcommittee and Staff Liaison continue to work with Cal Water and the Santa Clara Valley Water District on local efforts, and data collection and initiatives for water usage reduction and conservation. Rachael Gibson, Office of Government Relations, Santa Clara Valley Water District, gave a presentation on water conservation efforts at the April 13, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting.

In addition, City staff attended a webinars hosted by the Office of the Governor regarding the Governor's Executive Order for water conservation and new goals set by the State for 25% reduction in water consumption. The Los Altos Water District goal for water reduction is 32%.

DISCUSSION

Staff met with Cal Water Service (CWS) on April 22, 2015 and received a report about the drought, water-use restrictions and conservation efforts that will be implemented in the Los Altos Water District effective June 1, 2015. Staff then meet with the Water Conservation Subcommittee on April 30, 2015 and provided a briefing on these measures.

CWS convened a community meeting on May 11, 2015 at 6 pm at Covington School and presented drought, water use restrictions and conservation plans for the community. The Environmental Commission meeting convened at approximately 8:00 pm after the conclusion of the CWS community meeting.

At the May 11, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting, Public Works Director Susanna Chan presented a report and requested comments on the proposed City of Los Altos Level Three water conservation measures and implementation strategy.

At the June 9, 2015 Council meeting, Council adopted Resolution No. 2015-15 for Water Conservation Measures. At the June 23, 2015 Council meeting, Council approved the City of Los Altos agency water conservation efforts and approved Level 3 water reduction measures and prioritization

Effective June 1, 2015, CWS commenced implementation of Rule 14.1 reduction mandates and monthly water budget allocations for individual water users along with enforcement measures for meeting a 32% reduction in water usage for residents, businesses and for City municipal operations.

The City Municipal Service Center is a distribution point for SCVWD issued shower buckets and "Brown is the New Green" yard signs. Distribution hours are 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, drought gear items will also be distributed at the Hillview Recreation and Community Center Office from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CWS notified residents and the City of a Boil Water Order due to contamination in certain locations. An update by staff will be presented.

The Water Conservation Subcommittee and Staff will provide comments and updates.

Attachments:

- A. Santa Clara Valley Water District Drought 2015 Monthly Status Report; July 2015 – selected pages. Full report link
[file:///C:/Users/jlogan/Downloads/Monthly%20Drought%20Report%20\(6\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/jlogan/Downloads/Monthly%20Drought%20Report%20(6).pdf)
- B. California Water Service monthly user report
- C. Water Resources Control Board; June Report
- D. Promote water conservation activities

Section 2. Retailers' Water Use Reductions and Savings

This section contains detailed water use data from 2013 and 2015, summarizes cumulative water use saving percent, and illustrates cumulative and monthly trends in water use and savings at the water retailer level. [Please see Section 5, Data Collection Methodology for more information]

TABLE 4: 2015 RETAILER CONSERVATION ACTIONS AND SAVINGS SUMMARY

Water Retailer	Call for Savings	Cumulative Water Use (AF)	Monthly Savings May 2015	Monthly Savings June 2015	Cumulative Savings Jan to June 2015
San Jose Water Co.	30%	52,065	36%	35%	22%
Santa Clara (City)	30%	8,650	26%	29%	15%
Sunnyvale	30%	7,792	38%	36%	23%
San Jose Municipal	30%	7,783	39%	33%	22%
California Water Service	32%	5,031	40%	40%	27%
Palo Alto	24%	4,886	46%	36%	27%
Mountain View	16%	4,421	38%	33%	24%
Great Oaks	30%	4,417	38%	37%	24%
Milpitas	30%	4,264	31%	24%	16%
Gilroy	30%	3,280	34%	33%	22%
Morgan Hill	30%	2,805	35%	35%	26%
Purissima Hills Water ¹	²	610 ¹	37%	¹	¹
Stanford ¹	³	763 ¹	44%	¹	¹
Total		106,767	36%	35%	22%

¹ June 2015 data not available as of July 22, 2015

² 2-day/week water restrictions

³ No percent reduction targets for domestic use

TABLE 5: 2015 RETAILER CUMULATIVE AND MONTHLY SAVINGS SUMMARY

Cumulative Water Retailer Savings	Jan to Jan	Jan to Feb	Jan to Mar	Jan to April	Jan to May	Jan to June
San Jose Water Company	-3%	1%	3%	10%	18%	22%
Santa Clara, city	2%	5%	4%	6%	11%	15%
Sunnyvale	-6%	7%	6%	12%	20%	23%
San Jose Municipal Water	-8%	2%	4%	11%	19%	22%
California Water Service	8%	11%	10%	15%	23%	27%
Palo Alto*	10%	15%	12%	16%	25%	27%
Mountain View	0%	13%	10%	15%	22%	24%
Great Oaks	0%	5%	7%	13%	20%	24%
Milpitas	1%	6%	4%	8%	14%	16%
Gilroy	-5%	0%	5%	12%	18%	22%
Morgan Hill	-8%	-2%	6%	19%	24%	26%
Purissima Hills Water*	-4%	14%	7%	21%	25%	*
Stanford*	-3%	6%	7%	13%	22%	*
Combined Cumulative Savings	-2%	4%	5%	11%	18%	22%
<i>Cumulative Savings 2014**</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>11%</i>
Month to Month Water Retailer Savings	Jan to Jan	Feb to Feb	Mar to Mar	April to April	May to May	June to June
San Jose Water Company	-3%	5%	7%	25%	36%	35%
Santa Clara (City of)	2%	7%	3%	11%	26%	29%
Sunnyvale	-6%	18%	4%	27%	38%	36%
San Jose Municipal Water	-8%	11%	7%	24%	39%	33%
California Water Service	8%	15%	8%	26%	40%	40%
Palo Alto	10%	19%	6%	25%	46%	36%
Mountain View	0%	24%	3%	27%	38%	33%
Great Oaks	0%	10%	10%	25%	38%	37%
Milpitas	1%	11%	-1%	17%	31%	24%
Gilroy	-5%	5%	13%	24%	34%	33%
Morgan Hill	-8%	3%	17%	39%	35%	35%
Purissima Hills Water *	-4%	25%	-3%	40%	37%	*
Stanford *	-3%	13%	8%	29%	44%	*
Combined Month to Month 2015	-2%	9%	7%	24%	36%	35%
<i>Combined Month to Month 2014**</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>8%</i>

* NA not available as of 7/22/2015

** January 2014 was not included in analysis as there was no call for savings

California Water Service Company

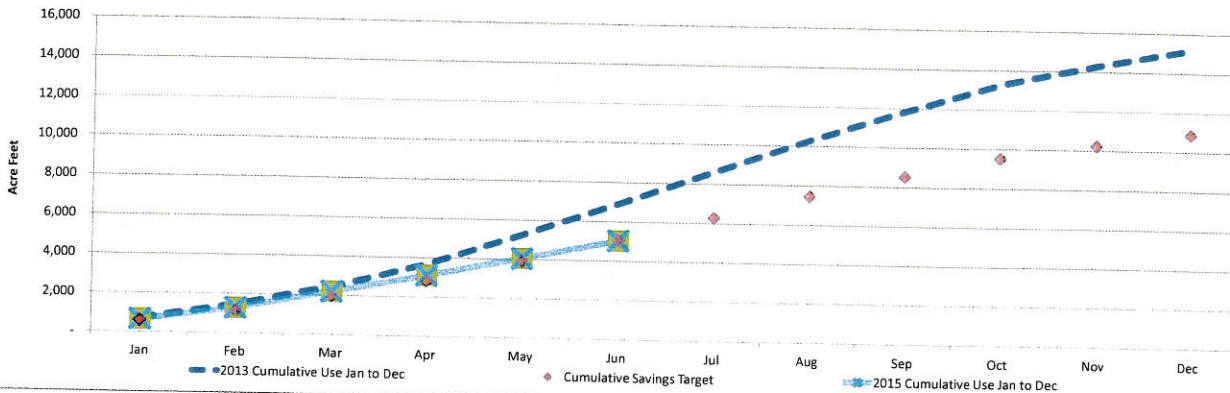
2013 and 2015 Water Use Compared to Target

2013	Groundwater	Treated Water	SP2UC	Surface	2013 Monthly Use
Jan	215.0	510.0	-	-	725.0
Feb	254.0	477.0	-	-	731.0
Mar	446.0	544.0	-	-	990.0
Apr	439.0	786.0	-	-	1,225.0
May	672.0	906.0	-	-	1,578.0
Jun	709.0	930.0	-	-	1,639.0
Jul	690.0	1,049.0	-	-	1,739.0
Aug	437.0	1,241.0	-	-	1,678.0
Sep	321.0	1,221.0	-	-	1,542.0
Oct	363.0	1,068.0	-	-	1,431.0
Nov	183.0	844.0	-	-	1,027.0
Dec	262.0	626.0	-	-	888.0
Jan to Current Month	2,735.0	4,153.0	-	-	6,888.0
January to December Total	4,991.0	10,202.0	-	-	15,193.0

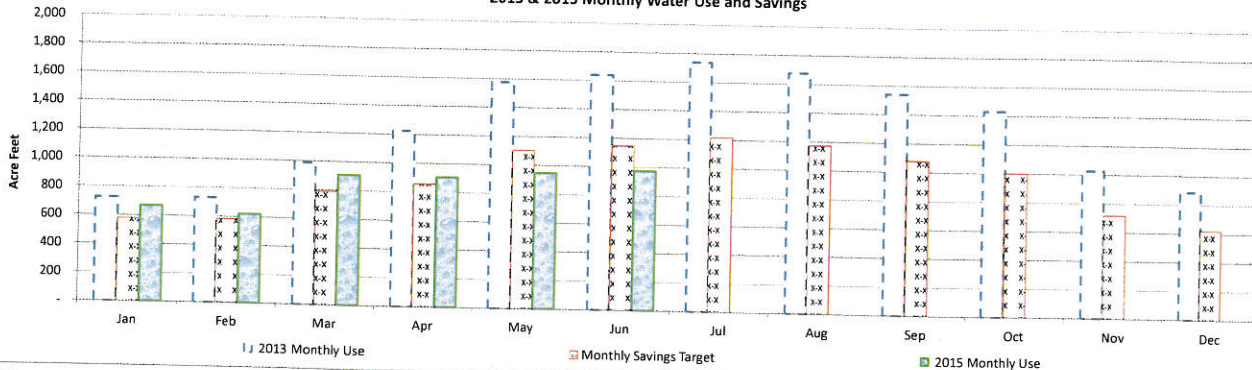
2015	Groundwater	Treated Water	SP2UC	Surface	2015 Monthly Use
Jan	491.0	178.0	-	-	669.0
Feb	447.0	175.0	-	-	622.0
Mar	658.0	252.0	-	-	910.0
Apr	479.0	427.0	-	-	906.0
May	219.0	729.0	-	-	948.0
Jun	73.0	903.0	-	-	976.0
Jul	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	-	-	-	-	-
Sep	-	-	-	-	-
Oct	-	-	-	-	-
Nov	-	-	-	-	-
Dec	-	-	-	-	-
Jan to Current Month	2,367.0	2,664.0	-	-	5,031.0
%Savings by Source of Supply	13%	36%	-	-	27%

Cumulative % Savings Jan to December
(+) = savings
8%
11%
10%
15%
23%
27%
-
-
-
-
-
-

Cal Water
2013 & 2015 Cumulative Water Use and Savings



Cal Water
2013 & 2015 Monthly Water Use and Savings



Notes

Current monthly water use data is preliminary and subject to change.

Percent savings are shown in positive values where savings have been made and negative percent values where water use is higher than the base year period (2013) January to March 2015 savings targets at 20% reductions compared to the same period in 2013, and the remaining months are at the March 24, 2015 call for 30% savings. Cumulative % Savings shows the target savings for all months combined at that period in time.

Recycled water not included in monthly analysis and will be analyzed separately. It is not included in the water savings target.

N/A = Not Applicable

NA = Not Available



As of 7/20/2015


California Water Service

P.O. Box 940001
San Jose, CA 95194-0001

Los Altos District
Quality. Service. Value.

July 2015
Water use at



Your home used
41% less water per day
compared to similar
homes in the Los Altos District.

How Does Your Home Compare?

Here's how your average daily water usage stacked up
against homes like yours during your last billing period.



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Take Action!

Follow these steps, and you'll be on your
way to using water more efficiently.



**Maintain, update, and fix
your sprinkler system.**

Fix broken and misaligned
sprinklers to avoid over-spray and
save up to 20 gallons every time you
water.



**Spend less time in the
shower.**

By decreasing your shower time as
little as one minute, you can save up
to 75 gallons per month.



**Change your watering
schedule.**

Adjust your irrigation controller to
avoid over-watering and comply
with watering day and hour
requirements.

Rebate Offer: High-Efficiency Toilets

Save up to \$100 on a high-efficiency toilet.

Please visit www.calwater.com/rebates for lists of qualified devices, full program details, and to receive the program application.

A Message From Cal Water

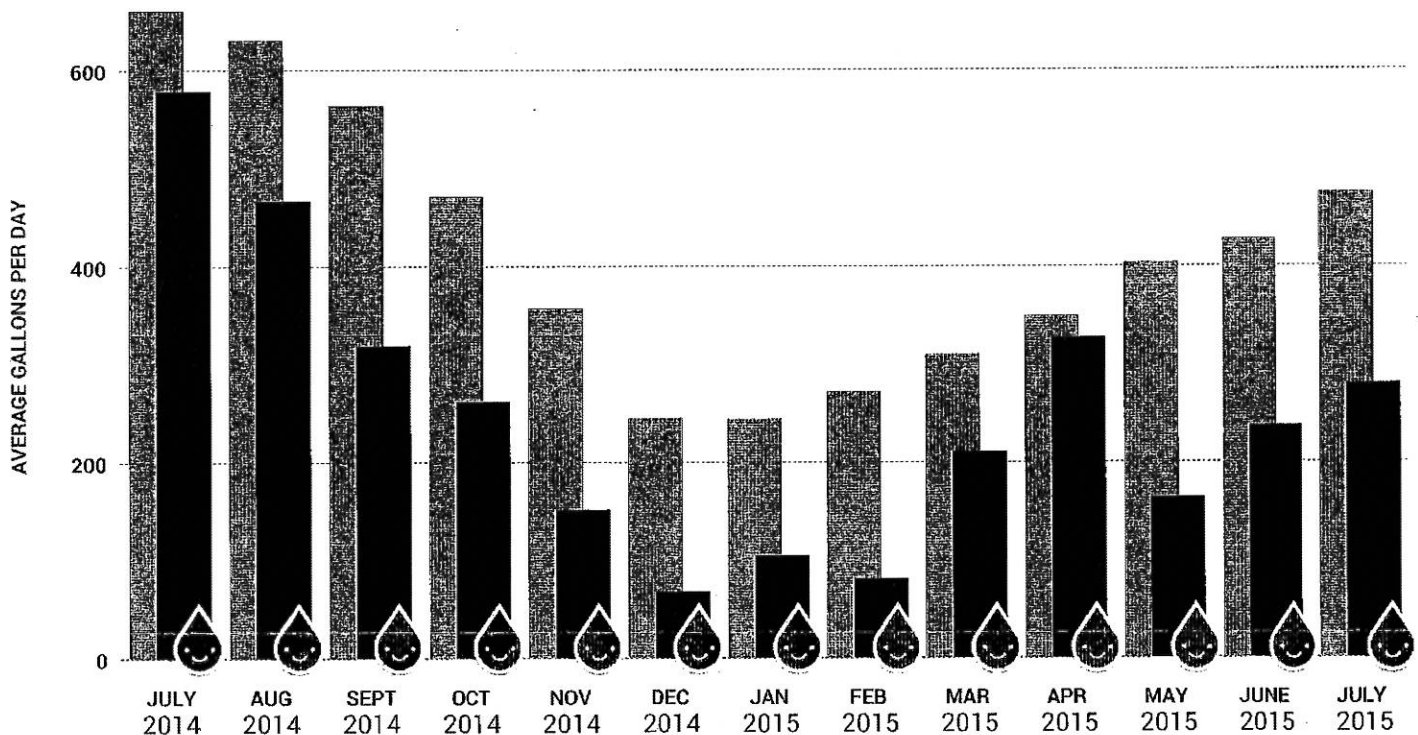
Cal Water is committed to helping our customers use water wisely, so that together we can ensure we have an adequate water supply, both now and for generations to come.

We thank you for being water-conscious and using water wisely.

Average Water Usage Per Day³

Your average daily water usage compared to similar homes in the Los Altos District over the past year.

● You ● Similar Homes



Los Altos Customer Center

949 B Street
Los Altos, CA 94024

Phone

(650) 917-0152

Email

infoLAS@calwater.com

¹ In this comparison, "Similar Homes" are determined by the average water usage from a sample of single family homes in the Los Altos District.

² Homes in the bottom 20% of usage out of similar homes to you are classified as "Lowest 20% Homes."

³ Average daily values are calculated based on your billing records.

Get more information online at www.calwater.com/focus



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Media Release

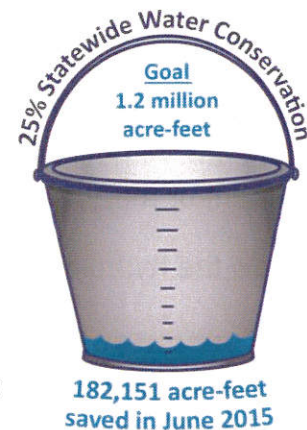
CALIFORNIA WATER USE DROPS 27.3 PERCENT, EXCEEDS 25 PERCENT MANDATE FOR JUNE

For Immediate Release
July 30, 2015

Contact: George Kostyrko
gkostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – With record-breaking heat throughout much of the State in June, Californians continued to conserve water, reducing water use by 27.3 percent and exceeding Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s 25 percent mandate in the first month that the new emergency conservation regulation was in effect.

"Californians understand the severity of the drought and they are taking action, as shown by the numbers released today," said Felicia Marcus, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. "We didn't know if the positive showing in May was due in part to cooler temperatures. This report shows that residents knew they had to keep conserving even during the summer heat and they kept the sprinklers off more than they would in a normal year. That's the right attitude as we head into August and September heat--in the drought of the century with no certain end date."



Despite being the hottest June on record, California's urban water suppliers exceeded the statewide conservation goal, saving 59.4 billion gallons (182,151 acre-feet), as compared to the same time in 2013. June conservation efforts put the State on track to achieve the 1.2 million acre-feet savings goal by February 2016, as called for by the Governor in his April 1 [Executive Order](#).

Water suppliers have made significant Investments in their education and outreach programs to communicate the need to conserve to their customers. June's enforcement statistics highlight the growing awareness of how water is used locally as a result of these programs. Water suppliers reported that their compliance and enforcement programs saw an almost two-fold increase in the number of complaints of water waste which resulted in a big jump in reported penalties.



Monthly water use reports are required by the [emergency water conservation regulation](#), and are provided to the State Water Board by urban water suppliers. Urban water suppliers are expected to meet, or exceed, their [individual conservation standard](#) starting in June and continuing through February 2016. The year 2013 serves as the baseline for determining water savings statewide. The current report is posted [here](#).

June Highlights:

- The percent of water saved by the State's large urban water agency suppliers decreased from 29.1 percent in May to 27.3 percent in June, in same-month water use comparisons of 2015 to 2013. June 2015 was the warmest June on record.
- The amount of water saved in June 2015 (59.4 billion gallons) is six times more than the amount of water saved during the same month in 2014 (9.6 billion gallons), when the State's voluntary 20 percent conservation goal was in effect.
- The June 2015 savings are 15 percent of the statewide savings goal of 1.2 million acre-feet of water needed by February 2016.
- 265 water suppliers, serving 27.2 million people met or exceeded their conservation standard. Almost 40 percent of all urban water suppliers reduced their water use by 30 percent or more.

See the how the hydrologic regions did for the month of June [here](#).

Local Enforcement Data Indicates Increased Awareness and Response

In April, water suppliers began reporting on their compliance and enforcement efforts to promote conservation and reduce water waste. The June statistics demonstrate community and water supplier commitment to identify and correct wasteful practices:

- 43,942 water waste complaints were reported statewide (by 371 suppliers), compared with 28,793 complaints reported in May (by 353 suppliers);
- 35,295 formal warnings were issued for water waste statewide (by 307 suppliers), compared with 36,082 formal warnings in May (by 279 suppliers); and
- 9,582 penalties were issued statewide (by 52 suppliers), compared with 1,928 penalties issued in May (by 49 suppliers).

By the end of June, four suppliers (one percent) had not imposed mandatory irrigation restrictions, and 19 suppliers (five percent) reported that they still allow outdoor watering seven days a week.

The June urban water supplier enforcement statistics can be found [here](#).

June's Top Performers

"In normal years, water use rises dramatically in the hot summer months. But this year, during the hottest June on record, Californians proved that they have the ingenuity and commitment to meet this challenge," said Marcus. "Agencies have stepped up to the plate to engage with their customers and it shows. The public knows how bad the drought is, and agencies need to help them know what to do. Letting lawns go golden, taking shorter showers, and other actions can pay off in greater urban water security in the event of more dry years, but, at the same time, we need to be clear that trees should be watered."

Dozens of communities achieved conservation levels of more than 30 percent in June 2015. Some of these stand-out communities include: Menlo Park (Bay Area), California Water Service – Antelope Valley (High Desert) and Arvin Community Services District (Tulare Lake Region). These high achievers include both inland and coastal communities, proving that it can be done.

Suppliers demonstrating remarkable performance included:

- Los Angeles County's Antelope Valley Waterworks District (District #40) - realized a 42 percent reduction in June water use, nearly doubling the 22 percent savings achieved in May. The District has implemented penalties for excessive water use and a drought surcharge to discourage excess water use.
- San Gabriel Valley Water Company - reduced water use by 35 percent in June, 1.5 times greater than the 23 percent reduction recorded in May. San Gabriel Valley's Stage 2 drought restrictions and penalties were approved by the California Public Utilities Commission on June 22, 2015.
- Santa Clara Valley Water District - set a 30 percent savings goal for its service area in March 2015 and 9 of its 11 urban water suppliers, including the San Jose Water Company and the City of San Jose, exceeded the 30 percent goal in June, leading to an overall savings rate of 35 percent for the District.
- Yorba Linda Water District - implemented Stage 3 of its drought ordinance effective June 1st, creating penalties for excessive water use, and working closely with its cities, homeowner associations, and school districts to curb water use. The result was a 38 percent reduction in use, surpassing its 35 percent reduction achieved in May.

Compliance Statistics

Of the 405 water suppliers reporting, 265 suppliers (65 percent) met, or were within one percent of, their conservation standard; 53 suppliers (13 percent) are between one and five percent of meeting their conservation standard; and 71 suppliers (18 percent) are between five and 15 percent of meeting their conservation standard.

However, there are 16 suppliers (four percent) that are more than 15 percent from meeting their conservation standard. The State Water Board will be contacting all suppliers more than one percent away from meeting their conservation standard and requiring many to provide information about their existing conservation programs and the steps they are taking to boost conservation. The suppliers furthest from meeting their conservation standard will be directed to take additional actions, such as imposing further restrictions on outdoor irrigation and increasing outreach and enforcement. The State Water Board cannot delay in using its enforcement tools to ensure water suppliers reach their mandated reductions.

Background

In his April 1 [Executive Order](#), Governor Brown mandated a 25 percent water use reduction for cities and towns across California.

In May, the State Water Board adopted an [emergency regulation](#) requiring an immediate 25 percent reduction in overall potable urban water use. The regulation uses a sliding scale for setting conservation standards, so that communities that have already reduced their residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) through past conservation will have lower mandates than those that have not made such gains since the last major drought.

Each month, the State Water Board compares every urban water supplier's water use with their use for the same month in 2013 to determine if they are on track for meeting their conservation standard. Local water agencies determine the most cost effective and locally appropriate way to achieve their standard. The State Water Board will work closely with water suppliers to implement the regulation and improve local efforts that are falling short.

California has been dealing with the effects of an unprecedented drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit [Drought.CA.Gov](#).

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](#).

###

**Possible things that Los Altos could do to promote water conservation.
Discussed at May 9th Drought Summit**

- City articulates all the good things it is doing to conserve water
 - City articulates its multi-level plan (do both in Town Crier article)
 - City posts signs around the city showing that they are saving water.
 - Create a conservation ordinance (based on one like Morgan Hill's or Los Gatos?) Los Gatos just enacted an emergency ordinance
 - City gets a bunch of the SCVWD blue buckets and make available to residents.
 - Palo Alto matched the SCVWD's landscape replacement rebate. SCVWD provides \$2/sq ft. and Palo Alto added the same.
 - Investigate Watersmart (like Opower for water). This probably needs to be implemented by CalWater, but not sure. Several cities are using it.
 - Ask Calwater to put on the monthly bill the gallons/day/household used, which will be much bigger and more impressive than something like 10 CCF.
 - For those Calwater customers on auto paperless pay, ask Calwater to give them the option to receive emails since they never see their bill and have no clue on what they are using. These emails could also include the bill insert info, which these customers also don't receive.
 - Look at making Landscaping Ordinance more strict in terms of water conservation- longer term effect.
 - Look at opportunities to make building codes more strict in terms of water conservation - longer term effect.
-
- Find out what the school district's plan is and have them publicize that.
 - Provide information on how we're doing. Most residents don't realize the magnitude of water used (e.g. Los Altos residents used almost \$2B gallons in 2013 and 568 gallons/day/household.)
 - Help people convert CCF to gallons.
 - Publicized CalWater's Los Altos district info compared to 2013 (we can get the Los Altos District data pretty real time compared to the Los Alto city water usage data)
 - Come up with a "floor" number on what number of gallons should be used per person without any landscaping. This would be the ideal number people could strive for. (may be able to use sewer number for this?). Or does the state or Calwater have this number? It is probably something like 45 gallons per day per person.
 - Have a contest. Could have different categories, such as innovative ideas or most reduction per month in 2015 vs. 2013 (people could show their Calwater bills for those two months). Winner gets in the Pet Parade or gets a parking pass for a day or something like that.
 - Get the Block Action Teams to publicize and promote water savings.
 - Publicize good demonstration sites for drought tolerant landscaping and/or graywater

From: Don Weiden
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:39 PM
To: 'J Logan'
Subject: Environmental Commission

Last night the City Council requested that the Environmental Commission establish Water Conservation as one of the priorities in our 2014-2015 Work Plan and challenged us to come up with ideas. An idea follows that could be shared with members of the EC and if appropriate forwarded to the City Council, City Staff, other City Commissions and others for development.

Subject: Water Conservation

Objectives:

1. Raise community awareness
2. Promote community action
3. Stimulate individual action
4. Be rewarding not punitive or policing in nature
5. Do not compete with conservation programs and incentives promoted by water utilities, PG&E, the State of CA, etc.
6. Low or no cost to the City

Program: What our family (business) has done to Conserve Water. In an e-mail or letter describe what your family (business) has done to conserve water in 150 words or less. The name of each participant is entered into a drawing for VIP seating and treatment at a community event.

Participation:

1. All ages
2. Los Altos and Los Altos Hills primarily, but include portions of Mountain View included in School Districts
3. Promote in school districts
4. Promote to local businesses

Community Events for VIP Seating and Treatment

1. The Pet Parade
2. The Festival of Lights
3. Others?
4. VIP seating and treatment would include reserved, identified and red carpet in nature (use your imagination)

Promotion and Awareness

1. Announce and schedule time for receipt of submissions
2. Review submissions, publish unique and insightful submissions in the Town Crier, on City Web Site, other City publications
3. Consider recognition of unique and insightful submissions (by age groups) by City Council

Development

1. Assistance from Commissions and Community Groups (Parks Commission, Youth Commission, Greentown, Scouts, others)
2. City staff to contribute assistance in set-up, etc.

Don Weiden
Los Altos Environmental Commissioner