

## Important Message Regarding

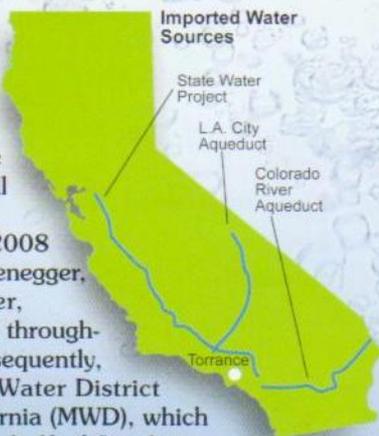
# Water conservation

### Our Current Situation

There is a very real water shortage in California and all water users must conserve. In June 2008 Governor Schwarzenegger, by Executive Order, declared a drought throughout the state. Subsequently, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which provides over one half of Southern California's water requirements, issued a Water Supply Alert to reduce water use. The water shortage has been caused by a "perfect storm" of events:

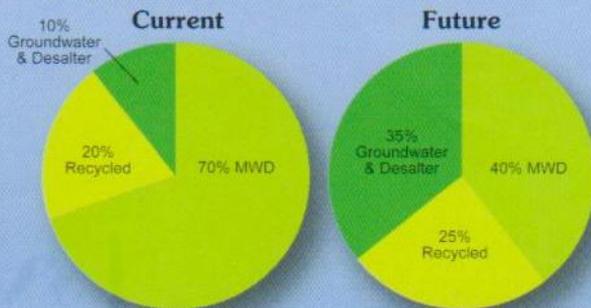
- A drought in the Northern California Sierra mountains, which provides most of California's imported water supply
- Limited local rainfall over the past three years
- A drawdown of storage reserves
- Judicial orders curtailing water pumping from the environmentally sensitive Sacramento Bay-Delta region to the State Water Project (SWP), which normally delivers 65% of MWD's imported water to Southern California.

Unlike past droughts, the limited water supply may continue over the next decade, until solutions to Bay-Delta problems can be implemented. Although we have conserved substantially in the past, it is imperative that we conserve even more.



### Torrance's Water Supply and Diversification Plan

The South Bay Region and the City of Torrance receives the majority of its water supply from the Metropolitan Water District. Currently, Torrance Municipal Water (TMW), which serves over three fourths of the City, receives 70% of its water supply from MWD, 10% from local wells and 20% from recycled water for non-potable landscape irrigation and industrial uses. The City is working to create additional local water resources to reduce our dependence on vulnerable imported water sources such as the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct. This diversification plan includes the drilling of additional groundwater wells, enlarging the capacity of an existing groundwater desalination facility, use of additional recycled water and a water "banking" program in the local groundwater basin. Within the next decade, it is projected that Torrance's water mix will be much more diversified and 60% of our total water supply will consist of local water resources. This will provide a reliable and sustainable water resource portfolio that will help drought proof the City.



# What We Need to Do Now:

With lingering drought conditions in California it is imperative that all water consumers practice the wise use of clean drinking water, a limited resource that we cannot afford to waste. All of us can achieve substantial savings by following some simple conservation practices.

## Do's

- Take shorter showers – 5 minutes or less.
- Don't over water your lawn – twice a week is enough for most lawns.
- Check for plumbing leaks and fix promptly. Leaking toilet flapper valves are the most common cause of high water bills.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Use a broom not a hose to clean driveways and pavement.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid overspray and fix broken or leaking hose bibs, valves and pipes.
- Turn the water off when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets.
- Add 2-3 inches of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.
- Install water efficient fixtures, toilets, and clothes washers.
- Install a "Smart Irrigation Controller" that automatically adjusts watering times and shuts off the system when it rains.

## Estimated Savings

- 2-4 gallons per minute
- 15-25 gallons per minute
- 10-50 gallons per day
- 3-30 gallons
- 15-20 gallons per minute
- 10-20 gallons per minute
- 2-3 gallons per minute
- 5-10 gallons per day
- Varies
- 25-60 gallons per day
- 30-50 gallons per day

## Don'ts

- Do not use a hose to clean sidewalks, driveways, parking areas or other paved surfaces.
- Do not water lawns between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to avoid evaporation.
- Do not water for at least two days after rainy days.
- Do not excessively irrigate lawns and landscapes. Avoid water runoff into streets, parking lots and storm drains.
- Do not wash vehicles with an open hose.
- Do not run fountains, ponds or other decorative water features that do not have a recirculation system.
- Do not operate defective irrigation systems with leaking lines, valves and sprinklers. Fix all leaks.



# City of Torrance Conservation Programs

Due to the water shortage, each one of us should conserve our limited water resources. Besides preserving this vital resource, efficient use of water can also substantially lower your water bill. The City of Torrance offers the following distribution and rebate programs for Torrance residents:

## Distribution Programs

- Free Low Flow Showerheads and Interior Conservation Kits  
The City offers these items free to all Torrance residents. Visit our Customer Service office at 18236 Prairie Avenue or call 310-921-6449.

## Residential Rebate Programs

- High-Efficiency Toilet (HET)  
*Applies to toilets with maximum of 1.28 gallons per flush; replacing toilets with 3.0 gallons per flush or greater. \$165 Rebate*
- High-Efficiency Toilet (HET) Upgrade  
*Applies to customers replacing ultra low flush toilets (ULFT) with 1.6 gallons per flush with HET. \$30 Rebate*
- High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW)  
*Applies to clothes washers with water factor of 5.0 or less. \$135 Rebate*
- Weather Based (Smart) Irrigation Controller (WBIC)  
*Applies to less than one irrigated acre of landscape. \$80 Rebate. More than 1 acre of irrigated landscape. \$630 Rebate.*
- Rotating (MP type) Irrigation Sprinkler Nozzles.  
*(One time rebate per address) \$4.00 Rebate per nozzle*
- Synthetic Turf  
*Applies to customers replacing irrigated area with synthetic turf grass (one time rebate per address) \$0.30 Rebate per sq.ft.*

For more information regarding conservation rebate programs contact the following:

- For Single Family Residential Programs:  
Phone: 888-376-3314  
Website: [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com)  
Go to link titled: SoCalWater\$mart
- For Multi Family Residential & Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Programs:  
Phone: 877-728-2282  
Website: [www.mwdsaveabuck.com](http://www.mwdsaveabuck.com)



Photos courtesy of  
The Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California



## California Friendly Landscape Classes

In partnership with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) the City of Torrance offers free landscape classes designed for residential customers. These classes focus on landscape design, plant selection, irrigation systems and maintenance techniques for developing and maintaining aesthetically pleasing and water efficient landscapes compatible with our Southern California environment. All classes are offered on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance. Call 310-782-3989 or 310-543-3022 for the upcoming schedule and to register for these informative and interesting classes.

For more information refer to: [www.tornet.com](http://www.tornet.com), [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) or call the Public Works Department at 310-781-6900.

## The Greening Effects of Conservation

Water conservation does more than just save vital water supplies; it also produces multiple environmental and economic benefits. Water as a whole, with all of its multiple urban, industrial and agricultural uses, accounts for nearly 20% of all energy used in California. Thus, saving water saves energy and ensures a greener environment by reducing pollution caused by energy production. In addition, efficient use of outdoor water prevents runoff into storm drains, which can contaminate our beaches and oceans.



[www.tornet.com](http://www.tornet.com)  
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