

WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL DISTRICTS DIVISION

The following is an overview of actions taken in response to the drought for the City's landscape maintenance districts:

Turf Removal Rebate Program – Areas Serviced By Potable Water

- Irrigation turned off to public medians irrigated with potable water on April 2, 2015. Trees and plant material continue to be watered.
- Received preauthorization for Metropolitan Water District's Turf Removal Rebate of up to \$1,026,902 to replace 513,451 square feet of turf in public medians and parkways with drought tolerant landscaping on August 8, 2015.
- Irrigation turned off to non-functional turf parkways included within rebate application at the end of August. Remaining parkway irrigation has been reduced.
- Contract Amendments to complete turf removal project scheduled for Council consideration October 13, 2015.
- Turf removal and any modifications to irrigation systems will begin after contracts are executed.
- Replants will occur when the weather cools and the plant material has a better survival rate. New plants require more water to establish and cooler temperatures cause less water evaporation.
- Project must be complete by December 8, 2015. An extension to February 8, 2016 may be requested, if necessary.
- Signs placed at the turf removal locations.



Reduction in Water Use

- EMWD entered into Stage 4a of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan on May 8, 2015. Stage 4a reduces outdoor water budgets by 10% of the monthly allocated billing unit.
- On September 16, 2015, Stage 4b is effective. Stage 4b reduces outdoor water budgets by an additional 20%, for a 30% total reduction
- EMWD is requesting agencies reduce outdoor water budgets for potable water by 50%.
- Irrigation meters have been adjusted to meet or exceed EMWD's mandated outdoor water reductions.
- Since January, the use of potable water for public landscaping has decreased on an average of 36.7% when compared to the same month in 2014.

City's Landscape Maintenance Districts Monthly Comparison of Actual Water Use Billing Units			
Month	2014	2015	% Reduced
January	11,389	2,216	80.5%
February	9,994	5,266	47.3%
March	7,112	6,077	14.6%
April	10,965	12,217	-11.4%
May	15,827	10,243	35.3%
June	18,813	9,373	50.2%
July	23,664	15,824	33.1%
August	26,454	14,735	44.3%
September	17,795	0	0.0%
October	18,773	0	0.0%
November	12,041	0	0.0%
December	7,931	0	0.0%
Total Average Reduction			36.7%

*Based on EMWD data received on 9/14/15

- Based on EMWD's allowed billing units, the average reduction within the landscape districts is 68.2% since May of 2015 when Stage 4a was implemented.

City's Landscape Maintenance Districts 2015 Monthly Comparison of EMWD Budget vs. Usage Billing Units			
Month	EMWD Water Budget*	Actual Usage	% Reduced
January	16,828	2,216	86.8%
February	19,975	5,266	73.6%
March	26,007	6,077	76.6%
April	43,845	12,217	72.1%
May**	45,741	10,243	77.6%
June	42,667	9,373	78.0%
July	37,715	15,824	58.0%
August	35,918	14,735	59.0%
September		0	
October		0	
November		0	
December		0	
Total Average Reduction to-date			72.7%
Total Average Reduction Since May 2015			68.2%

*Based on EMWD data received on 9/14/15

**EMWD Stage 4a effective May 8, 2015; 10% reduction

- Water units used in excess of the Tier 2 limits will be billed at 328% of the Tier 2 rates. This will require close monitoring of irrigation systems to quickly address irrigation issues (water main break, broken sprinkler or irrigation valve malfunction) which could cause excessive water use and costs to the landscape districts.
- EMWD uses the square footage of the landscape area to determine the monthly billing unit allocations. All of the public landscaping (approximately 9.3 million square feet) has been measured using the City's GIS system and is being reviewed for accuracy. Staff anticipates submitting corrections for EMWD's consideration prior to the end of the calendar year.

Appearance of Plant Material in Medians/Parkways

- Plant material may appear distressed and there may be a loss of plant material while in the drought and under water restrictions.
- Each landscape district's financial condition will determine if plant material can be replaced, if necessary. Replacements will occur when drought conditions have improved and temperatures are cooler.

Public Landscaped Parkways and Medians – Recycled Water

- Public landscaping within Moreno Valley Ranch is predominately irrigated with recycled water.
- The chlorine used to treat recycled water damages the plastic components in the irrigation valves resulting in valve failure. The irrigation valves are designed to fail open; if a component in the valve fails, it will open or “turn on”, resulting in water runoff.
- The irrigation infrastructure in the Moreno Valley Ranch area ranges from 10-30 years old, making the components at a higher risk for failure.
- Recycled water signs have been placed in the parkways and medians to alert the public not to drink the water and to alleviate concern of wasting potable water and not complying with EMWD water restrictions.



Additional Steps Taken

- Report a Broken Sprinkler reporting feature added to website.
- 2015/16 Annual Special Districts Brochure to report steps City is taking to reduce water consumption. Every property owner will be mailed a copy in November.
- Map of public landscaping irrigated with recycled water will be placed on the City's website before the end of September, 2015.
- Moreno Valley scheduled to host the State's regional meeting in October, 2015. The State will discuss its proposed Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. A Moreno Valley location will enable more City employees to attend. The ordinance guidelines are for new development.

Reporting Irrigation Issues

Members of the public can report signs of irrigation issues (broken sprinklers, water runoff, etc.) in the public landscape to the Special Districts Division.

- 951.413.3480

- specialdistricts@moval.org
- www.moval.org; Report a Broken Sprinkler from the “How do I” tab

Background

- Governor Signed Executive Order on April 1, 2015
 - Prohibits watering of turf in public medians irrigated with potable water.
 - Moreno Valley Ranch parkways and medians irrigated with recycled water; no change required.
- EMWD moves to Stage 4b of Water Conservation Plan on September 16, 2015.
 - Need to reduce outdoor water use by 30%, with a goal of 50%.
 - Tier 3 eliminated as part of Stage 4a.
 - Stage 4a also eliminated variances or adjustments to establish new landscapes.