



PRESS RELEASE

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Restrictions for Malibu, Topanga Canyon and Marina del Rey

*Environmental issues and low water reserves mean
reduced supply, surcharges for higher use*

(LOS ANGELES, Calif.) — Joining many water agencies throughout the Southland that purchase water from the Metropolitan Water District or one of its 26 member agencies, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, serving Malibu, Topanga Canyon, and Marina del Rey (District), has announced water conservation measures. Because of the ongoing drought, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the declaration of a Phase II Water Shortage in the District, requiring customers to cut water usage to 15% below an average or pay substantial surcharges.

After record-breaking low levels of rainfall in 2007 and 2008, water stored in reservoirs throughout the state has been depleted. A court order limiting the amount of water pumped from the Sacramento Delta to protect endangered species of fish further reduces water supplies to Southern California. In February 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency due to drought.

In April 2009, West Basin Municipal Water District, a wholesale water supplier, announced that it would reduce the amount of water it provides to District 29 by 15 percent. “This means that all District customers will only be able to use a specified amount of water or face substantial surcharges,” said Melinda Barrett, water conservation manager for the District. “Those who are already using less than average will be well served, but those who continue to use large amounts of water will have the wholesaler’s charges passed through on their water bill.”

“Now is the time for customers to take advantage of our free conservation programs,” continued Barrett. “We offer onsite water-use evaluations and rebates for water saving devices that can make it easier for customers to stay within their target.”

The cutbacks will require customers to use no more than 85% of the average amount of water used in the District during the 2004 to 2006 base period established by the

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wholesaler or face surcharges. The charges are 2 times the normal rate on water used that exceed the target amount by up to 15%, and 3 times the normal rate for any water used beyond that. If the water situation worsens, the District System could advance to a Phase III shortage which would require customers to reduce by 20%.

Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts No. 29 serves approximately 25,000 people in the City of Malibu, Topanga Canyon and Marina del Rey. For more information about the water restrictions or free conservation programs, call Melinda Barrett, Water Conservation Manager at (626)300-3362 or visit www.lacwaterworks.org.

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