

**CITY OF DANA POINT**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

Reviewed By:	
DH	<u>X</u>
CM	<u>X</u>
CA	

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**DATE:           OCTOBER 16, 2007**

**TO:             CITY MANAGER/CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM          BRAD FOWLER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING  
DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT:      NEED FOR WATER CONSERVATION, STORAGE AND RECLAIMED  
WATER SERVICE EXPANSION FOR IRRIGATION DUE TO DROUGHT  
AND DWINDLING IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the City Council recognize and support prudent efforts by City staff and the South Coast Water District to help the City reduce water consumption, improve water storage capacity and develop alternative sources of water supply to help avoid water rationing.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Metropolitan Water District, serving Southern California, as well as our local water provider, South Coast Water District, have joined the State in warning that we are entering a water shortage period. The Metropolitan Water district reported this past week that they would reduce water supplies to southern California by 30%. South Coast Water District has initially highlighted their concerns for the potential impacts to our City at our jointly attended Ocean Water Quality Subcommittee Meetings. Current and future forecasted drought conditions, increasing population and dwindling imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River may cause water rationing in the near future. This past season, Orange County rainfall at 2.34 inches was less than rainfall in parts of the Sahara Desert, to put this in perspective!

**DISCUSSION:**

South Coast Water District will provide a power point presentation highlighting current and projected water supply conditions for both potable (drinking) water and reclaimed (irrigation) water. Further, they will address public information sources for individual water conservation, free water use audits, water saving appliances and irrigation management controls. Potential local water storage, distribution, recycling and generation opportunities will be presented as well.

Staff is recommending that the City Council consider taking a proactive approach with our partner, South Coast Water District and other water agencies, to help avoid possible future water rationing. In a water shortage condition, South Coast Water District indicates the first casualty would be some of our parks that are still irrigated with potable (drinking) water.

Only the Northwestern half of the City, west of Golden Lantern, currently has reclaimed water distribution facilities for recycled water irrigation. The distribution system capacity to deliver reclaimed water into our City from the Laguna Beach recycling facility is also currently limited. Further we have no local storage capacity from which to distribute reclaimed water to our beautiful, but thirsty landscapes. Staff is asking for Council direction to investigate and return with recommendations to rectify this situation through support for such proposed projects as South Coast Water District's 1) recycled water distribution system improvements to feed Harbor area parks, 2) Salt Creek Recycling Facility to recycle a portion of the Creek runoff, and 3) their proposed Sea Terrace Park Underground Storage Facility as well as other possible local storage locations. South Coast Water District will be reviewing and adopting a Water and Sewer Facilities Master Plan beginning within the month, detailing their recommendations.

Water conservation measures that Staff recommends for Council consideration and support include the following: *(it should be noted that reduction of irrigation runoff has both water quality and bluff erosion reduction benefits as well.)*

1. Continue providing drought tolerant landscaping for City owned parks and medians.
2. Continue park and median irrigation system management improvements with sprinkler system retrofits, reclaimed water retrofit and moisture sensitive 'smart' controllers reduced usage - a Master Plan of possible improvements could be provided.
3. Developing City website links to water conservation information sources for irrigation control grants, xeriscapes, low water use appliance rebates, etc.
4. Continued public awareness through supporting South Coast Water District's water system usage audits, over irrigation notices, joint South Coast Water District outreach campaigns, HOA community landscape area water use reduction programs, etc.
5. Encouraging private drought tolerant landscaping installations and transformations and requiring water conserving 'smart' control systems and water conserving sprinkler heads for new development and redevelopment.
6. Commercial double piping systems for new development to conserve potable water by requiring use of reclaimed water for toilets and landscaping.
7. Review of our City Municipal Codes to consider other Water Conservation/Water Quality development incentives or requirements.

The City can also help reduce reliance on dwindling sources of import water supplies by supporting South Coast Water District's local water generation initiatives such as the expansion of their Ground Water Recovery Program. Their initial efforts to begin providing new local sources of water from our existing ground water basin at San Juan

Creek Beach Facility reaches fruition later this month. Of further future benefit can be our joint cooperative efforts with SOCWA, MWDOC and our neighboring cities to develop the San Juan Creek 15 million gallon water desalinization plant, assuming it continues to meet our community's environmental requirements.

Staff recognizes that these infrastructure improvements do not occur without valuable taxpayer resource support. However, given the increasing likelihood of serious water shortages, the length of time it takes to implement these recommendations and the potential consequences to our parks and our local constituents of water rationing, we are recommending action begin today! It should be noted that these improvements take years to realize so we may see some degradation in water reliability before these potential improvements are realized.

**NOTIFICATION/FOLLOW-UP:**

South Coast Water District.

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Support to the fullest extent possible efforts to prevent or limit potential adverse impacts caused by outside circumstances that may negatively impact the community's quality of life.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact of approving Staff recommendations in this report. Most of the physical improvements advocated in this report would be built by South Coast Water District or MWDOC by their ratepayers. However, various projects will later be developed and returned to the Planning Commission and/or Council and for consideration of funding, environmental impacts or siting. Grant opportunities will be explored as well.