

## News Release

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### **Sacramento County Water Agency Urges Customers to Reduce Water Use**

*Calendar year 2013 was the driest on record in more than a century of record keeping*

Sacramento, CA – The Sacramento region is experiencing its third consecutive dry winter. Although the Sacramento region as a whole is not facing an emergency situation, due to these ongoing dry conditions, the Sacramento County Water Agency is asking its customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20 percent.

“Conserving water is important to assure a continued reliable supply of water to our customers and to everyone in the region. The Sacramento County Water Agency routinely monitors precipitation forecasts and coordinates with other water providers in the region to prepare for dry periods like this. If dry conditions persist into the spring, more stringent conservation measures may become necessary,” says Michael Peterson, Director, Sacramento County Department of Water Resources.

Landscape irrigation typically accounts for about 70 percent of total water use. During cooler winter months, landscapes need very little water, making this an easy time of year to conserve water. The winter is also a prime time to inspect, repair and replace indoor plumbing pipes and fixtures.

Here are some water savings tips you can implement TODAY to do your part to conserve water:

#### **Outdoor Tips**

- Only irrigate your landscaping as needed
  - Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios
  - Use an automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose
  - Install a water-efficient drip irrigation system for your trees, shrubs and flowers
  - Repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads
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- Adjust sprinklers to avoid overspray and runoff
- Reduce each irrigation cycle by two minutes
- Install a Water-Sense labeled, "Smart" irrigation controller that adjusts watering based upon weather, soil type, sun exposure (for example, full sun or part shade) and plant type

### **Indoor Tips**

- Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving
- Wash only full loads of clothes and only run the dishwasher when it's full
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets
- Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows to less than 1.5 gallon per minute.
- Install efficient, WaterSense-labeled shower heads
- Install a high-efficiency WaterSense-labeled toilet (1.28 gallons per flush)
- Install aerators on bathroom faucets

For more information of water conservation, please visit:

Sacramento County Water Agency: [www.SCWA.net](http://www.SCWA.net)

Regional Water Authority: [www.rwah2o.org](http://www.rwah2o.org)

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