

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – March 25, 2014

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### **Drought Busters out in force**

*City conducted water use crackdown, issued more than 350 notices of violation in 48-hours of increased enforcement.*

**Sacramento, Calif.** - Following a week of spikes in water usage on Thursday and Friday- no watering days in the City of Sacramento- the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities launched an increased enforcement of its watering rules. These efforts, which shifted enforcement officer working hours to earlier start times or later end times, resulted in more than 350 first notices of violation and one second notice of violation. The first notice of violation issued by the City is a written warning with an explanation of the City's watering rules and water conservation codes. The second notice of violation is a \$50 fine. Further violations result in fines of \$200 and \$1000, and \$1000 for each subsequent fine.

“We did not make this effort simply to boost our numbers of notices of violation,” said Dave Brent, Director of the Department of Utilities. “We made this effort to help educate customers that because of the drought, their watering days have been reduced to 2 days per week and Thursdays and Fridays are no longer watering days. Our customers were notified of this change in their utility bills and in the media. While many people have gotten the drought conservation message, it's pretty obvious there are still many customers who are not aware of the new watering limitations that have been put in place to address the drought.”

The Department plans to continue its increased enforcement efforts of Thursdays and Fridays, targeting the areas with the highest number of water misuse calls. These are calls reported to 311 by customers stating that they see watering on the wrong days and times or overwatering.

As a reminder, the City's watering rules are:

- Properties with addresses ending in ODD numbers (1,3,5,7,9) may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Properties with addresses ending in EVEN numbers (0,2,4,6,8) may water on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Watering must take place before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on scheduled watering days.
- No watering is allowed on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays.
- No over-watering is permitted.

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*City of*  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Department of Utilities

Mayor Pro Tem Angelique Ashby, Dave Brent, Director of Utilities; William Granger, Water Conservation Administrator; and Terrance Davis, Drought Program Manager will be available for questions regarding this increased enforcement on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 from 12:30 p.m.- 1p.m. in the Media Room at City Hall.

More information on the City's water conservation program can be found at [www.SpareSacWater.org](http://www.SpareSacWater.org).

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