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NEWS RELEASE

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Sacramento Region Continues Impressive Water Use Reductions in August

14 agencies cut water use by 20 percent or more

SACRAMENTO-- Customers at 14 Sacramento-area agencies reduced water use by 20 percent or more in August compared to the same period last year, according to an analysis by the Regional Water Authority (RWA), which represents water providers in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo counties. The findings come from a review of August water use data submitted to RWA and the State Water Resources Control Board.

"Residents have been spectacular in their water use reductions," said RWA Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot. "August is typically one of the hottest months of the year, which makes the temptation to ramp up sprinklers hard to resist. But, the data shows that residents have made a serious commitment to preserving our limited resources during the severe dry conditions."

Drought Busters

Percent reduction in August 2014 compared to August 2013:

- 25% California-American Water
- 25% El Dorado Irrigation District
- 25% Rio Linda/Elverta Community Services District
- 24% Orange Vale Water Company
- 24% Placer County Water Agency
- 24% City of Sacramento
- 24% City of West Sacramento
- 23% Carmichael Water District
- 23% Citrus Heights Water District
- 23% Fair Oaks Water District
- 23% San Juan Water District
- 21% City of Roseville
- 20% Elk Grove Water District
- 20% Sacramento Suburban Water District

Overall, the region averaged a 21 percent reduction in August, and is averaging a 19 percent reduction from January through August 2014, compared to the same timeframe last year, RWA's analysis found.

"As we move into fall and winter, it will be important for residents to continue conserving water," Talbot said. "Even normal or above-average precipitation is unlikely to erase the effects of three dry years. We're in this for the long haul."

One action that residents can take immediately is to reduce sprinkler times by at least two minutes per zone. "Fall is prime time for overwatering landscapes," Talbot said. "Shorter days and cooler temperatures reduce the water demands of lawn, trees, shrubs and plants, so it's time to dial back sprinklers," Talbot said.

New Drought Resources Available

The Regional Water Authority has launched a revamped Web site at BeWaterSmart.info to provide additional drought information and tips for reducing water use.

The site includes a new [sprinkler scheduling tool](#) that allows visitors to enter information about their landscape (such as plant materials, soil type and sun exposure) and receive a custom watering schedule based upon the weather and local watering restrictions.

Other features include brief [videos](#) about low-tech solutions for determining when and how much to water your landscape, as well as how to fortify and maintain your landscape while reducing water use. Both the sprinkler scheduling tool and the videos were sponsored by the [Water Forum](#), which includes water providers, environmentalists and business leaders who work together to meet the co-equal goals of providing reliable water supplies and preserving the Lower American River.



About the Regional Water Authority: RWA is a joint powers authority representing two dozen water providers and affiliates in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.