



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bryce Roberto, Public Affairs Assistant; Office: (714) 593-5017

Orange County Residents Answer Governor Jerry Brown's Call for Water Conservation, Exceed the State's Mandated Urban Water Usage Reduction Goal

Fountain Valley, CA (April 6, 2016) – Orange County residents saved 93,141 acre-feet of water – enough to supply over 184,000 households for one year – in the nine months since state-mandated water conservation measures took effect. The collective effort of all OC residents propelled the county to exceed its state-mandated reduction goal.

East Orange County Water District, Serrano Water District, and Yorba Linda Water District led Orange County in total savings, surpassing their mandated 36 percent reduction goal – the maximum possible amount assigned by the State Water Resources Control Board. The cities of Seal Beach and Santa Ana, as well as Golden State Water Service [West Orange] exceeded their mandated conservation goals by the largest margins.

On April 1, 2015 Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-28-15, which directed the state water board to impose restrictions to achieve a statewide 25 percent reduction in potable urban water use. The water board then directed individual water agencies across California to reduce water usage between 8 percent and 36 percent – relative to 2013 water usage - to achieve the statewide goal.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County began tracking conservation efforts for the entirety of Orange County, calculating that the entire county must reduce urban water use by a total of 21.73 percent in the nine months of mandatory conservation. Local agencies used many tactics to encourage water reduction, including but not limited to: bill inserts with conservation goals, various social media campaigns, and limiting outdoor irrigation to once or twice a week – it is estimated that nearly half of Orange County's water consumption is for outdoor irrigation.

From June 2015 to February 2016 Orange County residents surpassed the 21.73 percent water-reduction goal assigned by the water board. Comparatively, California collectively achieved a 23.9 percent reduction in urban water usage, falling short of the Governor's 25 percent goal but still saving an estimated 1.19 million acre-feet – an acre-foot is enough to provide water to two households for one year.

The State Water Resources Control Board has been directed to extend emergency regulations through October 31, 2016, and will hold a [public workshop](#) April 20, to receive input on potential modification of current emergency regulations. Input from previous meetings proved effective as regulations have been loosened for some Orange County Water agencies, to reflect water conservation efforts and water supply sources.

For more about MWDOC, visit www.mwdoc.com

For more on state mandates, visit

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/emergency_regulation.shtml

