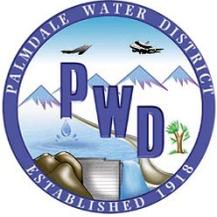


# PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PALMDALE COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND WATER CONSERVATION

Palmdale, CA – Palmdale residents have risen to the challenge set forth by the State Water Resources Control Board to reduce water consumption by 32% before February 28, 2016. The community got off to a good start by reducing water consumption for June by 29%. Each month's conservation numbers will be reported the following month to the State. Palmdale continues to impress with the communities efforts.

The Greater Antelope Valley heavily relies on groundwater to serve as residential and commercial supplies, for irrigation, and general industrial usages. While the State Water Project delivers, during a normal year, the majority of water to the AV, recently the region has been relying on groundwater as its primary source. Without proper recharging of the aquifer, long-term water reliability remains a concern. Climate change, increased competition for water allocation, a growing population, and ensuring economic stability are only a few of the problems facing the AV in the future.

“Decades ago the Antelope Valley had artesian wells seemingly producing an endless amount of water to be used by farmers, residents, and businesses to grow and prosper,” said Vincent Dino, Director of the Palmdale Water District Board. “With a climate growing more unstable, weather patterns being unpredictable, and the need for economic growth throughout the AV, water conservation, community education, and diversifying our regions water portfolio has never been more important.”

With this historic drought now entering its fifth year, Californians are now used to doing more with less. The recent summer rainfall events has given some hope that the possible arrival of El Nino will finally break the back of this on-going dry spell. Unfortunately, several years of average to above average rainfall would need to occur to bring our reservoir levels, and some groundwater supplies back to pre-drought levels. The drought is far from over.

Water agencies throughout California and the Antelope Valley have issued water conservation restrictions to collectively achieve the statewide mandated goal of a 25% reduction.

The majority of Palmdale residents have responded as a community by often times sacrificing lawns, outdoor garden areas, and altering daily routines to get to that goal. Residents, businesses, municipalities, and industry all must adhere to the same restrictions as everyone else.

“The Palmdale Water District could not be more pleased with how our community has responded to the demands set forth by the State to reduce water usage,” said Kathy Mac Laren, President of the Palmdale Water Board. “We as a community, a region, no matter your political affiliation, business, or livelihood, are all in this together. We are demonstrating that when we work together we can achieve great things.”

Water usage is highest during the summer months, especially June – October, where nearly 70% of water use is for outdoor irrigation. Water agencies across California will need to make the largest reductions during the next few months to ensure meeting the mandated consumption reductions in order to avoid a \$10,000 per day penalty beginning in March, 2016. The Palmdale Water District is proud of the community and continues to encourage all residents, businesses, municipalities, and industries to continue their conservation efforts.

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