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Year-end figures indicate Pasadena cut water use by 7.6 percent

Posted: 07/15/2009 11:35:02 AM PDT

PASADENA- City utility officials said Wednesday that Pasadena Water and Power customers cut water use by 7.6 percent for the 2009 fiscal year that ended in June, from the 2008 fiscal year.

Eric Klinkner, the assistant general manager of PWP, said that the drop in usage was higher than expected, and could mean that the city will not have to cut usage any further to avoid higher punitive rates from the Metropolitan Water District, their main supplier.

MWD announced earlier this year it would cut supplies to customers by 10 percent, based on a three-year average use figure. Exceeding the water supply would result in the punitive rates.

Because Pasadena is getting some credits for conservation and for population growth, said Klinkner, the amount customers have cut might be sufficient to avoid the rates.

The city voted last month to increase PWP customers' water rates, and the desire to avoid the higher punitive rates was one of the main reasons officials gave as a reason to increase the rates.

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