



## News Release

**For Release:** Immediate

**Contact:** Michele McKinney Underwood  
951.789.5039  
munderwood@wmwd.com

Peter Odencrans  
951.928.3777 x 4219  
odencransp@org

### **Maintenance shutdown of water treatment facility to cause limitations on outdoor water use for six-day period**

Riverside, CA – January 23, 2007 – A six-day maintenance shutdown of the Metropolitan Water District’s Henry J. Mills Filtration Plant and water delivery system will mandate the cessation of outdoor water use for customers of Western Municipal Water District and limit that of Eastern Municipal Water District’s customer base. Beginning Monday, Jan. 29 and continuing through Saturday, Feb. 3, Western’s impacted customers, located in the Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Orangecrest, Mission Grove, March Air Reserve Base, Air Force Village West, Lake Hills and Hillcrest areas of Riverside, must cease outdoor water use per a Board issued water shortage emergency ordinance. Eastern’s customers in the Moreno Valley, Perris, Menifee, Homeland, Romoland, Quail Valley and Sun City areas are being asked to conserve water, particularly in the outdoors, during this timeframe.

Customer cooperation is critical to help ensure sufficient water supplies are available to meet health and safety requirements.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, from whom Western and Eastern buys its water supplies, announced a shutdown at its Mills Filtration Plant to perform needed maintenance on the water system. In order to perform that work, water supplies from the State Water Project coming into the plant will be halted. Both local agencies will rely on stored and alternate water sources during the shutdown, however, a reduction in water use will be needed. In anticipation of this shutdown, Western’s Board of Directors declared that a water shortage emergency would exist during the period and adopted a water conservation plan for the timeframe. The conservation plan calls for restrictions on all outdoor water use.

Eastern recommends the following voluntary water conservation practices during the six-day shutdown: don’t water your landscape; don’t hose down driveways or any other hard surfaces except for health or sanitary reasons – use a broom or blower instead; and don’t allow hoses to run while washing vehicles – use a bucket or hose with an automatic shutoff valve. As Western relies mainly on the Metropolitan imported water source for its customers, these practices will be mandatory.

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Western's customers were notified of the shutdown and stoppage of outdoor watering via direct mail postcards, bill stuffers and reminder phone voice messages.

Western Municipal Water District provides an imported water supply, wastewater treatment and water resource management to the communities within a 527-square mile area of western Riverside County.

Eastern Municipal Water District provides freshwater supply, wastewater service and recycled water to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula, and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto.

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