



News Release

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Water Treatment Facility Shutdown Triggers Call for Water Conservation March 2-7

RIVERSIDE, CA – February 25, 2009 – Two water agencies are asking customers to increase their water conservation for six days while a major water supply is taken out of operation for maintenance beginning Monday, March 2.

The shutdown of the Metropolitan Water District's Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant and water delivery system through Saturday, March 7 will mandate the cessation of all outdoor water use for customers of Western Municipal Water District and voluntarily limit that of Eastern Municipal Water District's customers.

Western's impacted customers are located in the Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Orangecrest, Mission Grove, March Air Reserve Base, Air Force Village West, Lake Hills and the Hillcrest areas of Riverside. Western's board issued a water shortage emergency ordinance for that time period. Limited alternative water sources are available for Eastern's customers in Moreno Valley, Perris, Menifee, Homeland, Romoland, Quail Valley and Sun City. Eastern's customers in those communities are encouraged to cut water consumption, particularly in the outdoors, during this timeframe.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, from whom Western and Eastern buy their water supplies, announced the shutdown at its Mills Plant to perform needed maintenance on the water system. To do that, water supplies from the State Water Project coming into the plant will be halted. To ensure sufficient water for customers during those six days, a reduction in water use will be needed by Western and Eastern.

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. As Western relies nearly exclusively on the Metropolitan imported water source for its customers, these practices will be mandatory.

Eastern recommends no unnecessary outdoor water usage during the shutdown. Alternative supplies from Lake Skinner can be directed northerly to Eastern's customers to augment stored water and local groundwater, but at greater operational costs and staffing effort.

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.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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