



LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT
The Standard in Water Conservation &
Environmental Stewardship

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Contact: Ryan J. Alsop
(562) 570-2314
(562) 277-3497
Ryan_alsop@lbwater.org

Long Beach Hits Record Low Water Use in December

December '07 10% below 10-Year-Average

LONG BEACH, CA - Today, [Bill Townsend](#), President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners, announced that Long Beach has hit yet another record low for water consumption, this time for December. Water use in December was 5 percent below the lowest use for any December in the last decade and 10 percent lower than the 10-year-average. For the 1st Quarter of FY2008 (Oct-Dec), Long Beach is trending nearly 8 percent lower than the 10-year-average, and is trending nearly 3 percent lower than the previous 10-year-low.

On September 13th, the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners issued a [Declaration of Imminent Water Supply Shortage](#) and activated the City's Emergency [Water Supply Shortage Plan](#). As a result, the Board has issued mandatory prohibitions on certain uses of water. "The Board took the action it did to lessen the impact of an expected water supply shortage," according to Bill Townsend. "Long Beach will be among the very best prepared cities in southern California to deal with a regional water supply shortage. We are very encouraged by the response we are getting from our community and are hopeful others in southern California will join the effort."

The Water Commission's September Declaration was necessitated by the profound impact of a U.S. District Court's August 31st, federal Endangered Species Act ruling; the dramatic, recent reductions in water storage levels in key reservoirs in northern California; this year's record low rainfall in the southern California coastal plain, and a continuation of the historic 8-year drought in the Colorado River Watershed, which is a

significant source of imported water for California. Nearly half of the City's water supply is imported.

The [Long Beach Water Department](#) is an urban, southern California, retail water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

###