



**Long Beach Water Department**  
The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Long Beach August Water Consumption Down Nearly 20% for Second Year in a Row

### 15 of last 16 months have been record lows for water demand in Long Beach

LONG BEACH, CA – The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners has announced today that the City of Long Beach has set another 10-year record low for water consumption during the month of August. Citywide water demand for the month of August was 19.2 percent below the city's historical 10-year average, making this the second consecutive August that water use in Long Beach has been almost 20 percent below the historical average. Since the beginning of the current Fiscal Year, which started on October 1st, Long Beach water consumption is nearly 17 percent below the historical 10-year average. The 10-year historical average is from FY '98 to FY '07, which were the 10 years prior to the call for extraordinary conservation and prohibitions on certain outdoor uses of water. August '09 represents the fifteenth time out of the last sixteen months that a new record low for water use has been set in Long Beach.

The Board of Water Commissioners applauds the ongoing efforts of Long Beach citizens to permanently reduce their demand for water. They also continue to stress the importance of abiding by established citywide water use prohibitions.

“We are squarely in the midst of a statewide water crisis,” said John Allen, President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. “It is important that we remain committed to eliminating our inefficient and wasteful uses of water,” added President Allen.

The California Legislature has convened a special legislative session to specifically address the state's ongoing water crisis. A 14-member bipartisan, bicameral joint conference committee has been formed and will have a little over a week to draft some kind of an agreement that would create a long-term, comprehensive water management plan for the state. The committee will consider a package of five different bills, each with a unique purpose, such as water conservation, Delta sustainability, and groundwater reliability. With such a limited timeframe in which to craft a solution, legislators will be hard-pressed to find a deal that is satisfactory to each of the wide range of interests represented throughout the state, including agriculture, urban users, and environmentalists. Making the situation even tougher is the fact that Governor Schwarzenegger has vowed to veto any plan that doesn't include some kind of financing mechanism for the construction of new water storage projects, including dams and reservoirs.

“Everyone agrees that California is facing an imminent water crisis,” stated Kevin Wattier, General Manager for the Long Beach Water Department. “It is also recognized that any comprehensive solution the legislature is able to agree upon will take many years before it has any kind of measurable impact on the state's water supply system,” continued Wattier.



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So what are our options to address the crisis in the meantime? Mr. Wattier believes the answer is simple.

"It is absolutely essential that California immediately reduces its consumption of water. Time is running out for us to do anything else in the short-term," said Wattier. "No matter what gets accomplished during the remainder of the legislative session, the legislature should immediately approve and pass AB 49, the statewide water conservation bill," added Wattier.

AB 49 is a water conservation bill that would mandate a 20 percent reduction in statewide per capita water use by the year 2020. It is widely supported by a diverse collection of organizations throughout the state and is one of five package bills being considered by the joint conference committee. The Long Beach Water Department supports the passage of AB 49 during the current legislative session, even if the other Delta package bills are not successfully resolved this year. Passing AB 49 this year will provide some much-needed relief to the state's water supply crisis, while other long-term solutions are developed.

Long Beach Water is an urban, Southern California retail water supply agency, and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

## Long Beach conservation statistics for the month of August and the year-to-date:

**Note: The 10-year historical average is from Fiscal Year (FY) 98 - FY 07, which are the 10 years prior the impositions of new water-use restrictions. The 5-year historical average is from FY 03 - FY 07, which are the 5 years prior to the impositions of new water-use restrictions.**

### **Month of August**

10-yr High: 7,200 (FY 00)  
Historical 10-yr Avg: 6,850  
Historical 5-yr Avg: 6,750  
10-yr Low: 6,600 (FY 06)  
August FY 08: 5,550  
August FY 09: 5,500

Of Note:

- **August FY 09 is 19.2% below Historical 10-year average**
- **August FY 09 is 18.3% below Historical 5-year average**
- August FY 09 is 0.4% below August FY 08

### **August YTD (Year-to-Date)**

10-yr High: 64,100 (FY 04)  
Historical 10-yr Avg: 61,850  
Historical 5-yr Avg: 61,600  
10-yr Low: 60,100 (FY 05)  
YTD August FY 08: 56,250  
YTD August FY 09: 51,450

Of Note:

- **August FY 09 YTD is 16.8% below Historical 10-year average**
- **August FY 09 YTD is 16.5% below Historical 5-year average**
- August FY 09 YTD is 8.5% below August FY 08 YTD



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**August FY 09 to August FY 08 Comparison**

Demand

August FY 08: 5,550

August FY 09: 5,500

Precipitation:

Normal\*: 0.10 inches

August FY 08: 0.00 inches

August FY 09: 0.00 inches

Temperature:

Normal\*: 75.1 degrees

August FY 08: 74.4 degrees

August FY 09: 74.4 degrees

\* Normal period 1971 to 2000 (as defined by National Weather Service)

Of Note:

- While the mean temperature for August 2009 appears to be the same as August 2008, the average daily maximum temperature for August 2009 appears to be 1.4 degrees higher than August 2008.

**Running 12-month Total**

Historical 12-month Average: 68,128

Recent 12 months: 57,059

Recent 12-month Conservation: 16.2%

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