



May 7, 2015

Drought Advisory – PLEASE READ

Dear Valued Customer:

As your trusted leader in professional Landscape Design, Build, and Maintenance we want to offer some clarity and recommendations in continued response to the severity of this drought. We take pride in our responsibility to keep you informed of the latest local and state restrictions, and also to do our best to keep your property in legal compliance with any governmentally mandated measures. As a locally, San Diego owned, family-operated, business water conservation is of utmost importance to us at LaBahn's. San Diego is our home and taking care of our environment is something we're passionate about!

In addition to clarity and recommendations that *require your immediate attention*, we will be equipping you with important resources for future updates. There are also a number of attachments for your convenience.

The purpose of this letter is to help demystify some aspects of the drought, the state mandates, and officially state how San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and LaBahn's Landscaping, are responding. We have also done our best to keep you apprised and ahead of the game through our [newsletter](#)* and via other special email correspondences. Over the past year we've made ourselves experts in the rebate process for all of these conservation measures.

WATERING TIMES – WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG ARE WE ALLOWED TO IRRIGATE?

As you already know, last August, we put in to place the "recommended restrictions" handed down by the SDCWA and your local water authority. In short, what is **now mandated** for the entire state as of April 1st, 2015 has been in place for LaBahn's customers *since last summer*, thanks to the foresight of the SDCWA and our adherence to their efforts. As of the date of this letter, we are allotted:

3 days per week of watering (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) for 10 minutes total per day

It's a matter of time before the state mandate of 2 days per week at 7 minutes for (non-rotating, high or normal flow) spray nozzles is in effect everywhere. As the declaration is currently written, the local water authority efforts supersede, but soon we will be under further restrictions, as voted on May 5th, 2015.

HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR GRASS GREEN UNDER THESE RESTRICTIONS?

The short and sweet answer is, we can't. That is by design of the state declaration. Right now rotating low-flow nozzles get a pass and are allowed more minutes, yes, however we don't know how long that will be true. The starting goal for 2016 is to [remove 50 million square feet of turf](#) in the state. This is why they're allowing parks to go brown first, so people get used to seeing it. This is why areas of Balboa Park have already been converted to drought tolerant landscape. They are well aware that 2 days per week at 7 minutes will not maintain turf as we can not reseed and provide water for proper germination under these restrictions. At LaBahn's we pride ourselves on our relationships with our customers and being transparent. In honor of that spirit we are answering this question as straightforward as possible.

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*We need your involvement, engagement, and participation in these efforts. We are urging you to please **take all recommended repairs and water conservation recommendations**, as outlined below briefly, more seriously. Additionally, assess where the communities have money to invest in these measures and allow the county to match their investments while they're still [offering the funds](#).*

Our standard irrigation maintenance operating procedures include regular adjustment of water times. Run times are reduced in the winter and clocks are turned off when it rains. Water times are edited on an ongoing basis throughout the year, for maximum water savings, depending on a number of factors including: the property location, plant material, slopes, types of planters, type of irrigation, etc. We also adjust heads on a regular basis and reset nozzles to ensure there is not overspray on to the concrete or overflow due to breakages. **However, these basic maintenance procedures are not enough in a drought this severe** because there are always factors we can't control such as wind, grade, and accidental resident or guest abuse which causes breakages to nozzles - especially in high traffic areas.

We highly recommend you consider the following upgrades to your properties:

- Drip irrigation in planters
- Bubblers for trees
- Changing to water efficient nozzles
- Upgrading to a smart controller
- Upgrading to a weather based controller
- Separate stations for irrigating turf and planters with different water needs

All former suggestions of this nature need to be revisited. Please call us to discuss the specific water conservation needs for your property.

WATER WASTE EXAMPLE

It is our recommendation that any property with sloped turf consider taking advantage of the rebates (information below) and remove it, replacing with drought tolerant ground cover or a nice drought tolerant design, depending on area and if curb appeal is needed. An example of before and after conversions to drought tolerant plant material are attached below.



On the left is an example of run-off after a less than 2 minute irrigation test. **Due to the grade of the turf there will always be water-waste runoff, even with the most optimized irrigation system equipped with **low-flow nozzles and a timer programed to short cycle run times**.** We urge you to consider removing turf on slopes to consider pursuing rebates and removing turf in areas like this.

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We are proudly offering personalized short sessions in your offices to answer any specific drought or rebate questions. Please reach out to us if you'd like to schedule a meeting with our drought specialists.

Please know we will continue to make recommendations which will keep you in compliance as these drought response measures are more seriously regulated. We will also continue to always make sure your timers are in compliance with mandates, however, at any time if you have questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you for your business and being one of our valued partners. We look forward to partnering with you on these efforts.

Best regards,

Joanna LaBahn
CEO

Enclosures

To stay up to date with further drought updates [like us on Facebook](#)

Attached:

Third Party Resources
Rebate Information
Weather Based Smart Controllers
FAQs from the State Water Board

Third-party Resources:

San Diego County Water Authority: <http://www.sdcwa.org/drought-response>

Lori Swanson, Water Resources Specialist
(858) 522-6768, Lswanson@sdcwa.org

Dana Friehauf, Water Resources Manager
(858) 522-6749, Dfriehauf@sdcwa.org

California STATE Government:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/emergency_regulations_waterconservation.shtml

San Diego County Government:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/prohibitions.shtml>

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS (Non-Landscape): <https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoCountyWaterAuthority>

WATER CONSERVATION REBATES

LaBahn's Landscaping stands with the State of California and the San Diego Water Authority:

**all turf areas not actively used for recreation
should be immediately considered for replacement**

[ESTIMATE YOUR TURF REMOVAL REBATE NOW: CLICK HERE](#)

LBL wants to partner with our customers in helping to conserve water. We are experts in rebates. **That's why we do the paperwork for you!**

1. Rebates are a fantastic opportunity to increase water efficiency. It is also an easy way to ensure that properties are adhering to new water conservation directives. Our account managers and irrigation technicians will help you apply and receive these rebates in order to establish distribution uniformity, which is key to a lush landscape.
 - Soil moisture sensor - \$35 per station
 - Turf replacement - \$2 per square foot
 - High efficiency rotating nozzles - \$4 per nozzle
 - In-stem flow regulator - \$1 per filter
 - Weather based or "smart" irrigation controller - \$35 per station
 - www.socalwatersmart.com
2. The "Hermit crab" is a revolutionary retro-fit device that customizes your watering schedule based on the specifics of your landscape and readings from the weather report. Features of this product include:
 - Self-adjusting weather-based schedules
 - With 20-50% water savings possible, **payback can be just a few months**
 - ET water manager web-based system for easy setup, management, and remote operation. If an irrigation leak is reported we won't need to send someone out to the property, but will be able to remotely suspend all irrigation to prevent further leaking.
 - Remote monitoring and abnormal water flow
 - EPA Watersense approved
 - Rebates available for \$35 per station
 - www.etwater.com

On a recent job we performed at Rancho Serena HOA residents are thoroughly enjoying not only their new drought tolerant landscaping, but also the reduced cost of their water bill. **This beautiful Rancho Sante Fe turf removal project reduced their water bill from \$7,000 a month down to \$300!** This is a 10 month ROI and that *does not include* the **money they received back from the rebates.** We are proud to partner with this board in achieving their water conservation goals and look forward to helping you reach your conservation goals!

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Specialists in Turf Removal & Irrigation

We will provide recommendations regarding how water can be saved and how to use it more efficiently in order to ensure proper coverage and flow rate, thus increasing plant health and aesthetics.

LaBahn's employs certified water conservation specialists who are passionate about assisting associations in water savings and irrigation consumption improvements.

LaBahn's offers all of the top-line irrigation products, including Rain Bird, Toro and Hunter. We are certified and experienced smartline controllers from Weathermatic, Weathertrak and ET Water.

Example Turf Removal Project:

Rancho Serena HOA

- 20,111 Sq. Ft. of turf removed
- Water bills dropped from \$7,000 per month to \$300.00
- Rebates covered 80% of the project cost
- 10 month return on investment for the HOA board
- Designed & installed by LaBahn's Landscaping
- Completely native & drought tolerant landscape design

BEFORE



AFTER



What do we do with an ETWater Hermit Crab?



Weather Forecasting

Leveraging your precise coordinates, we use the most reliable and accurate weather services from the same sources that meteorologists and scientists use.



Wireless Connection

Your service is connected to a Nationwide network of wireless service providers, and uses the latest 3G and 4G bandwidth and data speeds for the ultimate in reliability.



Precise Watering

We know the amount of rain that fell at your site(s) and we combine this information with what we know about your landscape, and the plant types and you get the precise amount of water needed.



Events and Alerts

We track the events and activity at your location and receive alerts via text message or email when something has changed or needs our attention.



Dynamic Scheduling

The water schedule can be fully automated, enabling adjustment or suspension when rain events occur, and accounting for the precise amount of water needed within specific time constraints.



Mobile Access

We have the ability to monitor and control what is happening with remote access via any mobile device, and there are an advanced set of applications that let us program and customize your setup.

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SMART IRRIGATION

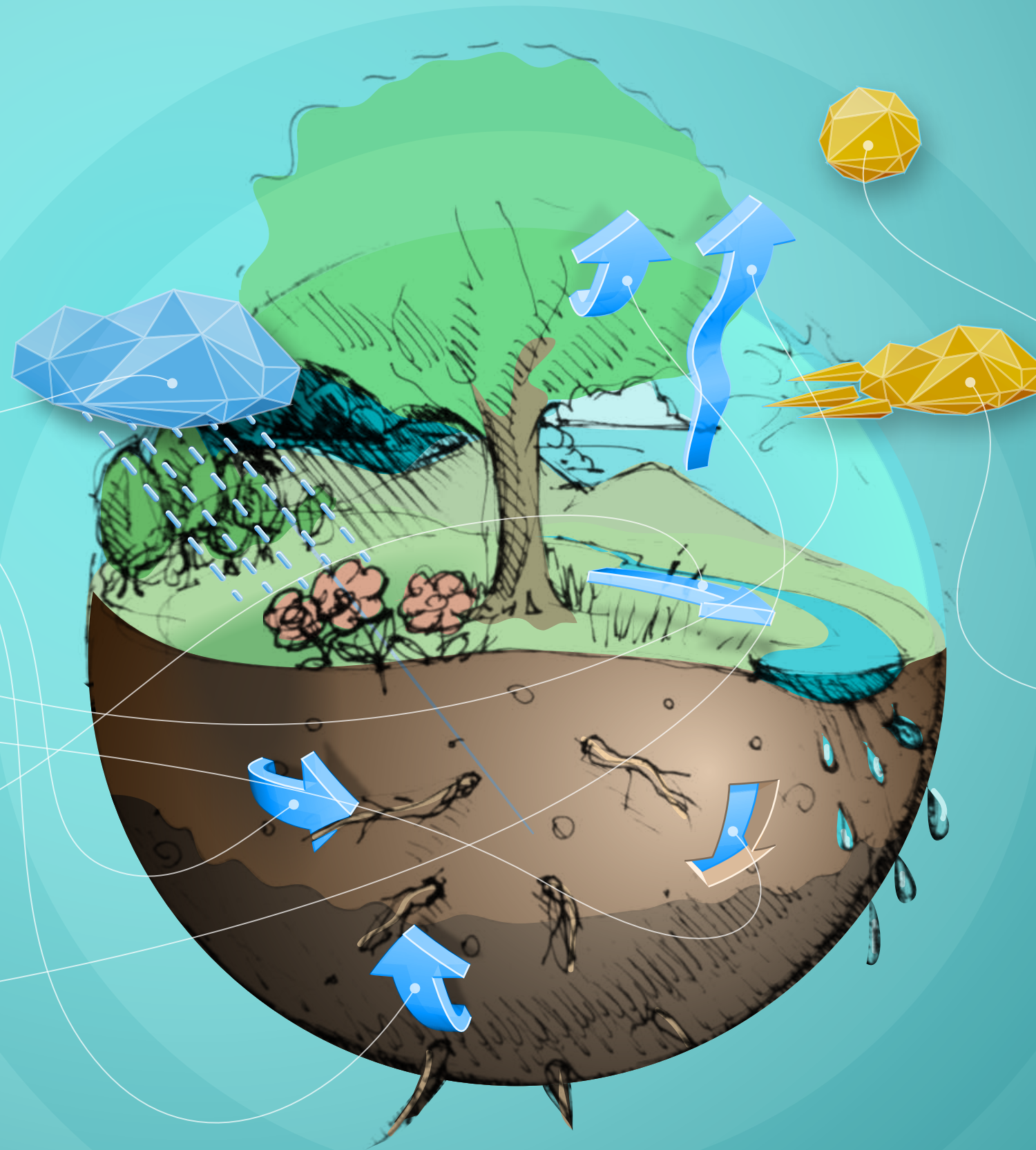
IRRIGATING IN HARMONY WITH THE WEATHER™

You water your plants, but where does that water go?

The water wets the soil where the plant roots can absorb it. If it would just stay there, irrigation would be simple, but it doesn't.

It evaporates from the topsoil, and seeps down into the groundwater table (or out the bottom of your plant pot). Water that the soil couldn't absorb is lost as run off, and even water that the plant does absorb is lost through its leaves, through transpiration.

The good thing is we can calculate how much goes where. We need to know the plant, the soil, and most importantly the weather.



What's the weather got to do with it?

The weather has a big impact on the rate at which water evaporates from the soil and transpires through the leaves.

Temperature and sun exposure, as well as wind and humidity, have the biggest impact. By tracking these as well as rainfall we can precisely calculate how much water must be replenished through irrigation to maintain proper soil moisture. Your typical irrigation timer won't do this for you, but a smart irrigation controller will, which could save you as much as 50% of your landscaping water, or more.



Fact Sheet

2015 Emergency Water Conservation Regulation Frequently Asked Questions

On March 17, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) adopted an expanded [emergency conservation regulation](#) to safeguard the state's remaining water supplies as California enters a fourth consecutive dry year. While there are many ways to boost local water supplies, conservation is the easiest, most efficient, and most cost effective way to quickly reduce water demand and extend supplies into the next year, providing flexibility for all California communities. With our inability to predict the remainder of this rainy season or the next, water saved today can improve a region's water security and add flexibility to systems that may need to withstand another year or more of warm temperatures and low precipitation.

The enhanced emergency conservation regulation targets both individual water use, by identifying the practices from which every Californian should abstain during this drought emergency, as well as the steps that local water suppliers should be taking to reduce water demand in their service areas. These updated restrictions set a minimum level of effort in this continuing drought emergency. Everyone should take additional steps to conserve water. As the drought wears on, the State Water Board will closely watch local implementation of the regulation, and will take further action as needed.

1. What types of water use are prohibited for all Californians?

The 2015 emergency conservation regulation prohibits:

- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways;
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water;
- Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars;
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water; and
- **New** Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall

2. Are businesses required to conserve water as well?

Yes, the prohibitions above apply to businesses and residents. In addition, the 2015 emergency regulation also focuses on the restaurant and hospitality sector:

- **New** Restaurants are prohibited from serving water to their customers unless the customer requests it; and
- **New** Hotels and motels must offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily, and prominently display this option in each guest room.



- Restaurants are also encouraged to use table cards to help convey the conservation message. Table card templates are available for download at the Save Our Water website at: <http://saveourwater.com/for-water-agencies/toolkit/>. Local water suppliers may also be able to provide similar materials.

3. Do water suppliers have to implement conservation measures?

Yes, there are requirements for both large urban water suppliers serving more than 3,000 customers, as well as small water suppliers serving fewer than 3,000 customers.

Large urban water suppliers (serving >3000 connections) must:

- Impose restrictions on outdoor irrigation;
- Notify customers about leaks that are within the customer's control;
- Report on water use monthly; and
- Report on compliance and enforcement

Small water suppliers (serving <3000 connections) must:

- Limit outdoor irrigation to two days per week **or** comparable measures to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use.

4. Are there limitations on outdoor watering?

Yes, the regulations limit the number of days per week that outdoor irrigation is allowed. Urban water suppliers with water shortage contingency plans can rely on limitations in their plans if they exist. Plans with no limitations must restrict outdoor watering to two days per week.

5. Can water shortage contingency plans be amended to impose day-per-week restrictions in lieu of implementing the two-day-per-week backstop?

Yes, the regulations allow for the local amendment of the plans.

6. Is everyone required to limit outdoor watering to two days per week?

No, the regulations rely on the days-per-week limitations contained on local water shortage contingency plans. If these plans do not contain limitations, then a two-day-per-week restriction must be implemented. Smaller water suppliers that are not required to have water shortage contingency plans have the option of implementing the two-day-per-week restriction or comparable conservation measures designed to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use.

7. How do I report water waste?

Water waste should be reported to the water supplier for the service area. The State Water Board's conservation website contains a simple tool to find the contact information for the water supplier based on the location of the alleged wasteful activity. The tool is located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_supplier.shtml.

8. Who can enforce the prohibitions?

Violations of prohibited activities are considered infractions and are punishable by fines of up to \$500 for each day in which the violation occurs. Any peace officer or employee of a public agency charged with enforcing laws and authorized to do so by ordinance may issue a citation to the violator. The State Water Board can issue cease and desist orders against water agencies that don't impose mandatory outdoor irrigation restrictions upon their retail customers. Water suppliers that violate cease and desist orders are subject to civil liability of up to \$10,000 a day.

9. Who makes sure that the water suppliers are doing their part?

The State Water Board has been tracking the implementation of conservation measures by large urban water suppliers. Information on their progress along with the status of their enforcement efforts is available on the website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/conservation_report_info.shtml. With more than 2,500 smaller water agencies not subject to reporting requirements, compliance checking is more challenging but is a priority for 2015.

10. Where can I find the monthly reports and conservation results submitted by the urban water suppliers?

The reports can be found on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/conservation_report_info.shtml. Information on the regulation can be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/emergency_regulations_waterconservation.shtml.

11. When does the regulation go into effect?

The regulation goes into effect immediately upon approval by the Office of Administrative Law and filing with the Secretary of State. The effective date of the regulation is March 27, 2015.

12. How long is the regulation in effect for?

The regulation will be in effect for 270 days unless extended by the State Water Board.

For more information, visit the [Emergency Water Conservation Portal](#).

Please visit SaveOurWater.com today!