



## NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
Public Works Department  
Water Resources Division

Contact: Rebecca Bjork, Acting  
Water Resources Manager  
(805) 897-1914  
RBjork@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SANTA BARBARA, CA – June 4, 2008**

### **GOVERNOR DECLARES DROUGHT – URGES CONSERVATION**

#### ***Save Water Now - Take the "20 Gallon Challenge"***

Governor Schwarzenegger today declared a statewide drought in response to below average rainfall, very low snowmelt runoff, and significant court-ordered restrictions on water transfers affecting all of California. A key element of the Governor's response plan is to expedite water conservation at the local level. The City's award winning water conservation program offers many opportunities for our customers to save water, and money. Go to **[www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org)** and take the "20-gallon Challenge." Call 564-5460 for a free water check-up and ask about rebates for water conservation upgrades. Visit the City's water web site at **[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water)** for information on all kinds of indoor and outdoor water conservation.

The drought situation affects various regions of the State in different ways. Water districts that depend heavily on transfers of water from Northern California via state and federal water projects are expected to be impacted the most. This is due to the combined effects of low rainfall, reduced snowmelt, and court action that restricts the timing and extent of transfers of water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The

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City's water supply depends on State Water only to a limited extent, taking water when available and needed to help stretch local supplies.

South Coast water agencies are fortunate that Lake Cachuma filled completely as a result of rainfall during the past winter. This takes away some of the urgency, but water conservation is always important and is an important part of the City's water supply plan. "A full reservoir at Cachuma is important to us at this point," said Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager, "but we depend equally on conservation to able to continue to meet the demand for water."

The "20 Gallon Challenge" is a recently launched campaign that challenges water users to adopt some new practices to save an additional 20 gallons per day. You can take the challenge by going to **[www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org)**, where you can develop a personalized plan to save an extra 20 gallons per day.

Free water check-up are offered to help customers find leaks, identify efficiency improvements, qualify for rebates, and adjust irrigation schedules. Free rain sensors are available to prevent irrigation systems from activating when it is raining. A number of tools are available to adjust your irrigation schedule to actual local weather conditions. A wide variety of information is available on water wise plants and how to incorporate them into your landscape. Rebates are available for high efficiency clothes washers, toilets, and urinals, including waterless urinals. "Green Gardener" training is offered for landscape professionals.

For information on the Water Conservation Program, City customers are encouraged to call the Water Hotline at 564-5460 or visit **[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water)**.

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