



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA LAWN WATERING BAN

December 2016

## Our Need to Conserve

The Santa Barbara community has done a lot to reduce water use in our community, but our water situation is getting worse and we need to take action now to stretch our remaining water supplies. The impending addition of desalinated water is a huge step, supplying about 30 percent of the community's needs, but desalination alone cannot solve all of our water challenges.

The lawn watering ban will take effect January 1, 2017. Reducing lawn watering is the single biggest step the community can take now to make a significant impact on reducing water use and preventing severe peak water shortages in summer 2017. In the last year, customers have reduced water use by 35 percent and with the lawn watering ban, customers can extend that achievement to 40 percent, which will be enough to overcome projected peak water shortages.

## Where our Water Comes From

Traditionally, the City's supplies include: Lake Cachuma, which now stands at 7.7 percent of capacity, and from the Gibraltar Reservoir, which is empty. Other water sources include supplies from groundwater, recycled water, State Water Project imported water, and soon a reactivated supply from the desalination plant, which could produce 30 percent of the City's needs. All of these sources work together to meet the City's demands.

The lawn watering ban is expected to save between 500 and 1,200 acre-feet of water by next summer. That's enough to support as many as 3,600 families for a year. Total water demand in the City is about 10,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), down from about 14,000 AFY before the drought.



*This aerial photo shows the drastic effect the drought has had on Lake Cachuma, normally the primary water source for Santa Barbara. The lake currently stands at 7.5 percent of capacity.*

## Are There Any Exceptions to the Lawn Watering Ban?

The City Council directive indicates that there will be minimal exceptions to this ban. Those exceptions include:

- Irrigation using non-potable (recycled) water;
- Irrigation of playing fields used primarily for active recreation at schools, State licensed child care centers, and similar locations as determined by the Public Works Director;
- Irrigation of parks and recreational non-residential open spaces that are publicly owned and operated;
- Irrigation of putting greens and tee boxes at golf courses;
- Irrigation of a lawn area, the use of which is directly related to a business activity, subject to prior authorization by the Public Works Director, and documentation of ongoing compliance with the City's targeted reduction in water use; and
- Irrigation in areas planted entirely with turfgrasses that are included on a list of low water use grasses approved by the Public Works Director and posted on the City's internet site, subject to prior authorization by the Public Works Director.



## Tree and Landscape Care

The focus on lawns allows for critical water savings and prioritizes outdoor water use to preserve high value landscaping such as trees and shrubs. The City has informational resources available to help our community water trees and landscaping. Specific tree watering information, signs of drought stress in trees, tree FAQs, and more can be found at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/TreeWatering](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/TreeWatering).

For more information on water supplies, drought planning, regulations, and rebates please visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water) or call (805) 564-5460.

Thank you for taking action, we are all in this together.