

News Release



**Foothill Municipal Water District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foothill Municipal Water District Thanks Customers For Cutback in Water Use, Urges Greater Conservation

Foothill Municipal Water District thanks customers for an 8 percent cutback in water use during the fiscal year ending June 30 and urges greater conservation this fiscal year, closer to a 15 percent reduction, to avoid penalties by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Foothill General Manager Nina Jazmadarian said customers in the Foothill service area, including La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta and Altadena, used about 1,000 acre-feet less water during the 2008-09 fiscal year, compared with the prior fiscal year. The biggest savings were recorded during March and April, when usage dropped about 300 acre-feet each month.

An acre-foot is the amount of water needed to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot, or about 326,000 gallons.

Meanwhile, water use is dropping throughout Southern California in response to calls for conservation and the prospects of greatly increased costs if water savings are not achieved.

Metropolitan Water District reported a drop of 14 percent in water use during June, compared with a six-year average. Metropolitan supplies imported water to 26

agencies, including the Foothill Municipal Water Company, which is a wholesaler that sells water to eight retail water providers in its service area.

Conservation efforts were aided by cooler than normal temperatures during June, about 4 degrees below normal, and a growing interest in drought-resident landscaping with native plants that require less water.

Continuing drought and environmental limits on the amount of water that can be sent from the Northern California Delta to Southern California have reduced the supply of imported water to our region and promoted Metropolitan Water District to adopt the stringent restrictions on water use and heavy financial penalties for exceeding allocations.

In line with Metropolitan's actions, the Foothill Board of Directors limited allocations of wholesale water to its retail water providers, effective July 1 and imposed penalties for exceeding the allocations.

For more information, contact the Foothill Municipal Water District at (818) 790-4036.

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