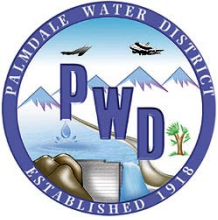


PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

2029 East Avenue Q • Palmdale, California 93550 • Telephone (661) 947-4111 • Fax (661) 947-8604



ROBERT E. ALVARADO

Division 1

JOE ESTES

Division 2

Board of Directors

MARCO HENRIQUEZ

Division 3

KATHY MAC LAREN

Division 4

VINCENT DINO

Division 5

www.palmdalewater.org Facebook: *Palmdale-Water-District* Twitter: *@PalmdaleH2O*



January 4, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike McNutt, PIO: 661-456-1041 (w), 614-390-7930 (c), email: pio@palmdalewater.org

PWD Water Use at All Time Low While El Niño Emerges

Palmdale, CA – While the State Water Resources Control Board continues to force local water agencies to enforce their arbitrary reduction figures, El Niño is knocking on the Antelope Valley's door. PWD customers used a record low of 80 gallons of water per person per day for the month of November 2015. This accomplishment is markedly lower than other cities throughout the AV and beyond, even though, the District as a whole is only at 26.8% of its mandatory 32% reduction. November saw the District conservation rate fall to 20%.

"The majority of water savings occurs throughout the months of June through October since the weather is warmer and people water their lawns to keep them alive," said Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager of the Palmdale Water District. "Nearly 70% of residential water usage is for outdoor water irrigation. It is difficult to hit our number during the winter months."

As the El Niño watch continues, making up for the years of absolute dry weather will take some time. Reservoir levels are still historically low, groundwater replenishment is scarce, and water capturing infrastructure is still needed throughout California. As these intense storms begin to move throughout the State, the PWD encourages all members of the community to be prepared. Flooding, intense rain, debris flows, and power outages are just a few of the hazards that Palmdale residents could face.

The PWD asks that all residents create an emergency preparedness kit by stocking up on water, three gallons of water per day per person in the household for three days' time, non-perishable food items, flashlights, either a battery operated or crank radio, extra batteries, first aid kits and medications for those within the household, infant needs such as diapers, pet supplies, and enough warm blankets and clothes. All families need an emergency plan to ensure a place to meet, or people to call, and to make sure that any family member can be accounted for if disaster strikes. Lastly, listen for further information or instructions from first response agencies.

"We all need water to live but it can cause damage if we have too much at once," said Mike McNutt, Public Information Officer for the Palmdale Water District. "On one hand the consumption of water is extremely low, but on the other, we need to be ready for getting too much at once. Being prepared and keeping families safe is priority."

During winter months, the PWD allows watering on Wednesdays and Saturdays with no timing restrictions. Irrigating in the winter, especially during times of freezing temperatures, can cause ice to form on sidewalks, driveways, and roads, making slippery conditions and unwanted hazards. "Bleeding" irrigation lines dry to winterize them is a great way to make sure those lines will not burst if freezing occurs. Wrap any pipes exposed to outside walls, such as under the kitchen sink, with insulating foam or fabric to minimize the risk for pipes bursting.

For information on how to prepare for any emergency, click here: <http://lacoa.org/PDF/EmergencySurvivalGuide-LowRes.pdf>

##

