

**For Further Information, Contact:  
Barrow/Hoffman Public Relations  
Mary Barrow (626) 357-4151**

**For Immediate Release:**

**City Asks Residents and Businesses  
to Voluntarily Take Steps to Conserve Water**

**DUARTE, CA, June 24, 2009** – The City of Duarte has reduced its citywide irrigation schedule by 20% in parks, medians and facilities as one of the ways it is working to conserve water during the State of California’s prolonged period of drought. Attending to the prompt repair of irrigation problems and ongoing replacement of City landscaping with drought tolerant and native plants are other steps that the City has undertaken to conserve water and reduce waste.

In a resolution passed by the Duarte City Council on May 26, the City asked Duarte residents and businesses to take immediate action to “voluntarily conserve water for all of its uses and to make every effort to reduce water waste in order to conserve this precious natural resource.”

Duarte residents are encouraged to take simple steps to save water, including taking shorter showers, not leaving water running, checking for leaks, washing only full laundry loads, not washing vehicles at home, promptly fixing defective plumbing or sprinklers, watering only when landscaping needs it during early morning hours, avoid sprinkler runoff into paved areas, and to use a broom rather than a hose to clean driveways, gutters and walkways.

Following the City Council resolution, a letter was sent to all eating establishments in the city asking that drinking water only be served if specifically requested by the patron.

For the past three years, California has been under drought conditions. This, combined with ongoing environmental problems and lack of investment in the State water system has caused severe water challenges both statewide and in the San Gabriel Valley. In February, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed

a statewide water emergency and called for the creation of a statewide water conservation program. Since then, the State has launched the "Save Our Water" initiative to educate California about the State's ongoing water supply challenges and promote conservation. Recently, the Metropolitan Water District announced its intent to cutback imported water deliveries to its Southern California customers by 10% effective July 1, 2009.

For more tips on how to help save water, visit California's Water Conservation Resource website at [www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org).

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