

MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

In spite of the recent rains, the Los Angeles region continues to suffer from severe drought circumstances. The snowpack in the Eastern Sierras is at its lowest levels in years, thereby reducing water supplies to the Los Angeles Aqueduct which historically provides 35% of the City's water. The Colorado River Aqueduct is also very low, reducing the amount of water the City receives from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

Additionally, litigation to protect the delta smelt in Northern California has resulted in drastically reduced water supplies from the State Water Project. Currently, the State Water Project provides the majority of water that the MWD provides to the City and region.

To address the impacts of drought, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners will be considering a proposal to limit irrigation to two times a week. The focus on irrigation relates to the estimation that approximately 40% of water use is for outside purposes such as watering residential lawns and gardens. To augment this effort, the Board will be considering the implementation of water-shortage rates which would increase the cost of water to incentivize conservation.

As part of any water conservation proposal, the Board should consider offering City residents full rebates for the installation of weather-based sprinkler controllers. These controllers, many of which are satellite controlled, have the ability to significantly reduce water use by adjusting the operation of sprinklers based on the weather while others measure moisture levels. It is estimated that weather or moisture-based sprinkler controllers can reduce water use levels by approximately 20% if not more.

The MWD currently offers a limited rebate program for weather-based sprinkler controllers; however the Department of Water and Power should offer a full rebate program which it directly administers in order to ensure that local water conservation objectives are reached.

In addition to this, freeway medians under the control of the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans), have been seen operating sprinklers to water landscapes during the rain periods of drought. Cal Trans should also be urged to assist the City in meeting water conservation objectives.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) be requested to report to the Council in 30 days on the feasibility of implementing a full rebate program, administered by the Department of Water and Power, for the installation of weather-based or moisture-based sprinkler controllers for the City's residential and commercial customers; and report on similar water conservation rebate programs administered by other cities and jurisdictions.

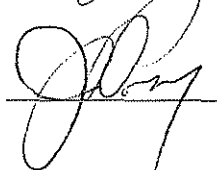
I FURTHER MOVE that the DWP be requested to report on an implementation plan to install weather-based sprinkler controllers on all City facilities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) be urged to report to the Council relative to its landscape water conservation practices on freeway medians within the City.

PRESENTED BY:


GREG SMITH
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



FEB 18 2009

09-0371

ORIGINAL

EC1