

14-0078-53

MOTION

With the State of California in the midst of one of the worst droughts in our history, it is essential that every member of the community participate in water conservation programs that will protect water supplies in the future.

Watering turfgrass lawns and other outdoor irrigation is one of the most egregious uses of water in Los Angeles, and a report recently published by the California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA found that more than half of water used in single-family homes is for outdoor irrigation.

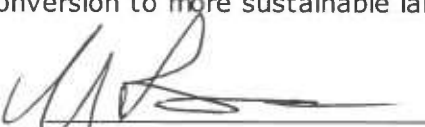
The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has launched a program to incentivize residents to remove water-intensive turfgrass lawns in order to save water, offering financial incentives for customers that replace their lawns with drought-tolerant plants. The Department has additionally instituted mandatory "watering days" that restrict outdoor water use to 8-minute segments before 9:00 am or after 4:00 pm, every other day of the week.

Though the DWP is helping customers save water by reducing the size of their lawns and limiting the days and times water can be used outdoors, the use of water to irrigate large sections of turfgrass on Department's own property is sending Angelenos mixed-messages about the crucial importance of conserving water. According to a July 30, 2014 report in the *Los Angeles Times*, ("83-year-old good Samaritan scores a rare victory against City Hall," July 30, 2014) a DWP facility in Eagle Rock was observed watering a large turfgrass lawn for up to 12-hours at a time. DWP facilities with large lawns of turfgrass are not uncommon, and another exists at Venice Blvd. and McLaughlin Ave. in Council District 11.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that Department of Water and Power and General Services Department immediately cease irrigation of turfgrass on large lawns located on City property that are not specifically intended for recreation, so that the lawns are not using needed water while they wait to be replaced with native and drought-tolerant landscaping solutions.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the DWP and GSD report to the Council on the progress of replacing lawns on City property with drought-tolerant plants, and how much water is intended to be used to irrigate lawns and other water-intensive plants on property owned by the City while the conversion to more sustainable landscaping takes place.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN  
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Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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