



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • www.mwdh2o.com

Contacts: Darcy Burke, MWDOC, (714) 593-5014; (951) 634-9019, mobile
Bob Muir, Metropolitan, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, mobile

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**SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES ASKED TO USE
WATER WISELY DURING UPCOMING PIPELINE SHUTDOWN, REPAIR
Urgent repairs on major imported water line serving
500,000 people in south Orange County to begin June 8**

Residents and businesses throughout south Orange County are requested to continue using water wisely and efficiently, especially while a major supply pipeline is repaired during an eight-day shutdown beginning June 8.

Officials from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Municipal Water District of Orange County and local water agencies made the precautionary water-saving request today as Metropolitan prepares for the June 8-15 shutdown of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline, a regional water line serving communities from Yorba Linda south to San Clemente.

Kevin Hunt, MWDOC general manager, said efficient water use by consumers and businesses would help the region last the shutdown without disruptions or inconveniences. In addition, water system interconnections shared between local water agencies and cities will offer added safeguards ensuring the region will maintain adequate water during the outage.

“Orange County consumers have done an excellent job responding to the request to save water to deal with the current water shortages from the State Water Project,” Hunt said. “This, however, is a critical repair coming during a typically warm period. We all need to continue to do our part and reduce water use while the repairs are made”

James Green, Metropolitan’s manager of water system operations, said the district routinely schedules shutdowns of its facilities during the winter—when temperatures usually are cooler and demands are lower—to complete inspections and perform maintenance and upgrades with the least impact on consumers. However, a recent inspection of the Allen-McColloch line revealed sections that need immediate attention.

Metropolitan’s 26-mile Allen-McColloch Pipeline extends from the district’s Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda to El Toro Reservoir in Lake Forest, typically delivering up to 100 million gallons of water a day in the month of June for Orange County residents.

The line is the primary source of supplemental, imported water to south county communities served by MWDOC, which relies on Metropolitan supplies for about 50 percent of its water needs.

During the outage, Metropolitan will shut down the pipeline early June 8 and drain portions of the high-pressure line. After excavating the repair sites, crews will cut away the weakened sections of pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe and replace them with welded-steel pipe.

Because of the immediate need to repair the line, local agencies did not have the six-to eight-month lead time usually provided by Metropolitan to coordinate their water supply and storage options. Residents who want to know more about how the shutdown will affect them should contact their water provider directly.

Residents and businesses are being asked to keep doing their part to ensure reservoirs and local supplies won't be drained. Steps include reducing outdoor watering and refraining from filling swimming pools or spas and hosing down driveways and sidewalks from June 8 until the pipeline repairs are complete.

Other water-saving measures can include running only full loads of washing machines and dishwashers, not leaving the water running when washing dishes, brushing your teeth or shaving, and keeping showers to five minutes.

The conservation call is consistent with the region's ongoing region-wide public outreach campaign encouraging Southern Californians to continue saving water after years of low rainfall and continued pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta—the hub of California's outdated water system.

South Orange County water agency contacts:

- El Toro Water District—Sherri Seitz, Sseitz@etwd.com ; 949-837-7050, ext 239
- Irvine Ranch Water District—Shannon Reed, Reeds@irwd.com ; 949-422-4253
- Moulton Niguel Water District—Robyn Konovalov, rkonovalov@mnwd.com ; 949-831-2500
- Santa Margarita Water District—Michele Miller, michelem@smwd.com ; 949-459-6548
- South Coast Water District—Linda Homscheid ; Lhomscheid@scwd.org ; 949-361-9908;
- Trabuco Canyon Water District—Teresa Teichman, tteichman@tcwd.ca.gov ; 949-858-0277
- Laguna Beach County Water District—Christopher Regan, CReagan@lbcwd.org ; 949-464-3108
- City of San Clemente – Nathan Adams, AdamsN@san-clemente.org ;949-361-8354
- City of San Juan Capistrano—Francie Kennedy, fkennedy@sanjuancapistrano.org ; 949-487-4304

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.