


INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Los Angeles Unified School District
Facilities Services Division

INFORMATIVE

TO: Members, Board of Education
Ramon C. Cortines, Superintendent

DATE: September 18, 2015

FROM: Mark Hovatter, Chief Facilities Executive 

SUBJECT: WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT AWARENESS UPDATE

Purpose

The purpose of this Informative is to report on new state and local water conservation mandates and the response by staff to address these and prior water conservation goals.

Background

As water conservation is an established Los Angeles Unified School District (“District”) priority, on April 8, 2014, the Board of Education passed the Water Conservation and Drought Awareness Resolution (Res-060-11/12). This resolution was designed to draw attention to the severe drought in California and develop actions to offset the effects of the drought.

Today, the State of California is under a statewide mandate to reduce water use, with some areas located within the District facing mandates of up to a 32 percent reduction. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has been charged with enforcing this mandate and has empowered local agencies to fine property owners up to \$500 a day for failure to comply. In October 2014, the City of Los Angeles’ Mayor issued Executive Directive No. 5 which set water conservation goals districtwide for city agencies and residents. To meet these conservation goals, the District is collaborating with agencies on many important initiatives, including:

a. Stormwater and Outreach:

The District received an allocation of \$6,000,000 in Proposition 84 and DROPS grants from the SWRCB to implement storm water capture and local aquifer recharge projects. The District is partnering with educational institutions such as the Council for Watershed Health, TreePeople and LA Audubon, as well as the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (“LADWP”) and the Metropolitan Water District to foster long-term awareness of water resource issues and to integrate educational opportunities into water conservation projects and programs.

b. Reclaimed Water:

The District is in the initial planning stages with LADWP to bring recycled water to District campuses. Three schools are currently connected to recycled water and by the year 2017 another 13 schools are scheduled to be connected as soon as recycled water becomes available in their area. The District is also evaluating smart irrigation controllers to reduce outdoor

water use, and securing utility-provided turf removal rebates to add drought-tolerant plants.

c. Conservation:

The District issued Bulletin-6513.0 – Energy and Resource Conservation Policy to instruct schools and facilities on how to save water and energy. The District’s School Design Guideline and Specifications were updated to allow ultra-low flow fixtures that use only 16 ounces per flush with lower associated maintenance costs. The District is also implementing a comprehensive set of water conservation initiatives including high-efficiency plumbing fixture retrofits, storm water capture projects, high performance design of schools and modernizations, and the installation of drought tolerant landscapes at schools.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christos Chrysiliou at (213) 241-0482.

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