

State Water Resources Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2006

SWRCB 06-016

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State Water Board Reminds Californians: When You Save Water, You Save Power

SACRAMENTO-As temperatures soar, the State Water Board urges water conservation when there is a power alert. Delaying lawn watering, laundry or dishwashing for just a few hours can free up electricity for air conditioning and other vital purposes.

Every gallon of water used requires power for water suppliers to pump it (and, in many cases, purify it). Using less water for domestic purposes also puts less pressure on our sewage treatment facilities, and uses less energy for water heating.

"While water generates electricity at dams, it also uses lots of power when it is moved around the state, pumped from wells or is transported in pipes. On days like today, we should think of water usage as power use," said Tam Doduc, State Water Board chair. "We are talking about enough power to cool thousands of California homes."

As a regional heat wave persists over California, new record power demands have been set this week and high levels of use are expected to continue, according to the California Independent Service Operator (ISO).

"Energy conservation is always important, especially during heat waves. Every gallon of water we save before 6:00PM means there is additional electricity available for more important purposes. Conservation reduces the strain on California's grid," said Yakout Mansour, President and CEO of the California ISO.

- Gardens will still get their water and avoiding midday watering may actually be better for your plants. Experts say most of us should water during the cool parts of the day anyway. Early morning is better than dusk since this helps prevent the growth of fungus.

- Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. This stretches our supplies farther, and helps save our valuable resource.

- Over the longer term you can save water, and money, by replacing parts of your lawn and high-water-using trees and plants with less thirsty ones. But do this only in wet years.

- There are also many effective ways to conserve water in and around your home that will save you money on your water bill. You can find more at:

www.h2ouse.org

- You can find out more about saving electricity at www.fypower.org and monitor the California ISO Website at www.caiso.com for updated information about the electricity supply.

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