



NEWS RELEASE

CONSERVATION STILL IN EFFECT DESPITE PLENTIFUL RAIN Local Situation Differs from State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Darby Fuerst, General Manager, darby@mpwmd.net or (831) 658-5650 or Stephanie Pintar, Water Demand Manager, at steph@mpwmd.net or 831/658-5630

March 31, 2011, Monterey. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD or District) issued a statement today reminding local residents, businesses and visitors that mandatory water conservation and water service restrictions continue in our area, even though Governor Brown formally ended the state's drought emergency earlier this week.

MPWMD General Manager, Darby Fuerst, explained that there has not been a local "physical drought" (lack of rainfall) in many years, but our area is impacted by a long-term "regulatory drought." This refers to restrictions on water service from the local purveyor, California American Water (Cal-Am), due to orders by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding the Carmel River Basin, as well as court action regarding the Seaside Groundwater Basin. The Endangered Species Act also plays a role in local water supply.

"The District has been in Stage 1 of a seven-stage water conservation and rationing program since March 1, 1999," said MPWMD Water Demand Manager, Stephanie Pintar. Stage 1 prohibits wasteful activities such as hosing down sidewalks rather than sweeping them; it allows watering of residential landscapes on odd-even days and only in the morning or evening. Restaurants may serve water only on request. Additional requirements of Stage 1 may be found at:

<http://www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us/wdd/conservation/STAGE%201%20WATER%20CONSERVATION%20and%20water%20waste.htm>

Additional information on water conservation may be found at:

www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us (click on Water Permits and Conservation)

www.montereywaterfacts.com (Cal-Am site).

--end--

U:\Henri\wp\pr\2011\DroughtOver_NewsRelease_20110331.docx
Prepared by H. Stern on 3/31/2011 at 5 PM