

State Water Resources Control Board

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Californians Urged to Add to Energy Conservation Efforts:
Water Conservation Ultimately Conserves Energy

SACRAMENTO – In light of the critical energy challenge facing the state, the State Water Resources Control Board is encouraging Californians to conserve water, an action that will ultimately conserve energy.

To reduce the risk of power outages, the most important thing that can be done in the short term is reduce our demand for electricity and use energy more efficiently.

While it may not seem obvious, water use requires energy. Energy consumption is not solely limited to household appliances that operate on electricity or gas. Electricity is needed to supply drinking water to consumers and to treat wastewater.

Groundwater requires electrical pumps to raise the water to the surface from underground aquifers. While many water delivery systems rely on gravity to move the water, others require pumps. (A couple of examples are the Tracy Pumping Station and the Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant, which move water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to southern locations.) Electricity is required to lift the water into the canals.

At the other end of the pipeline, wastewater treatment plants also require electricity to treat the sewage, which can then be released into waterways. The less wastewater entering the plants, the less energy is required to treat that water.

Governor Davis and California Legislative leaders are working with utility companies, generators and consumer groups to fashion long-term solutions for reliable and affordable electricity. The State of California has already implemented a plan to reduce consumption by at least eight percent. Lights and appliances are being turned off in State buildings.

“By conserving water, one of California’s precious resources,” said Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Acting Chairman of the Water Board, “we also conserve energy in this most critical time. Water conservation will be part of both the short-term and the long-term solutions to California’s energy challenge.”

-30-

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>

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