



Press Release

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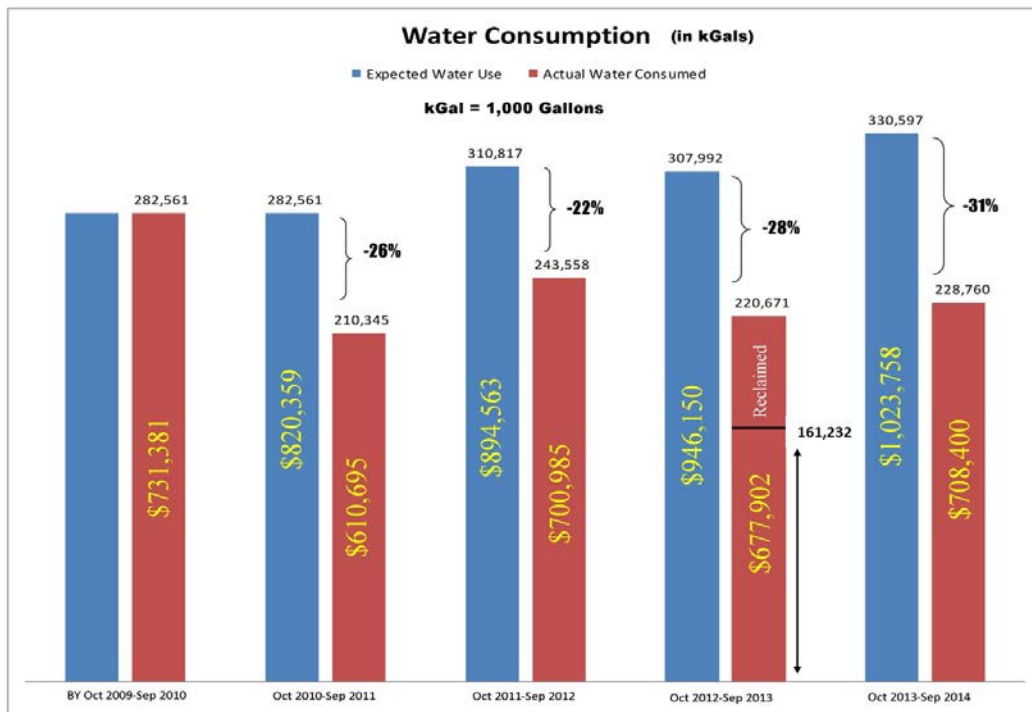
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Hemet USD Water Conservation

Hemet, CA – May 8, 2015

The Hemet Unified School District's Governing Board heard a presentation on the school district's water conservation program coincidentally on the same day the State Water Board announced its new mandated reductions in water consumption.

In 2010 Hemet Unified School District set out on a course to reduce their water consumption through innovative landscape practices. Using techniques to address the root cause of excess water requirements across the district's 214 acres of landscape, Hemet was able to reduce water consumption by over 20% and even more in each of the past four years. As of 2014, Hemet Unified has reduced its water consumption by 31%.



Some of these strategies include the practice of "drill and fill" where a tractor pulls a piece of equipment across large turf areas that drills holes in the ground and fills them back in with sand. This process both reduces the soil compaction caused by hundreds of children running across the grass fields, but also created pathways for water to more efficiently reach the root bed while minimizing runoff.

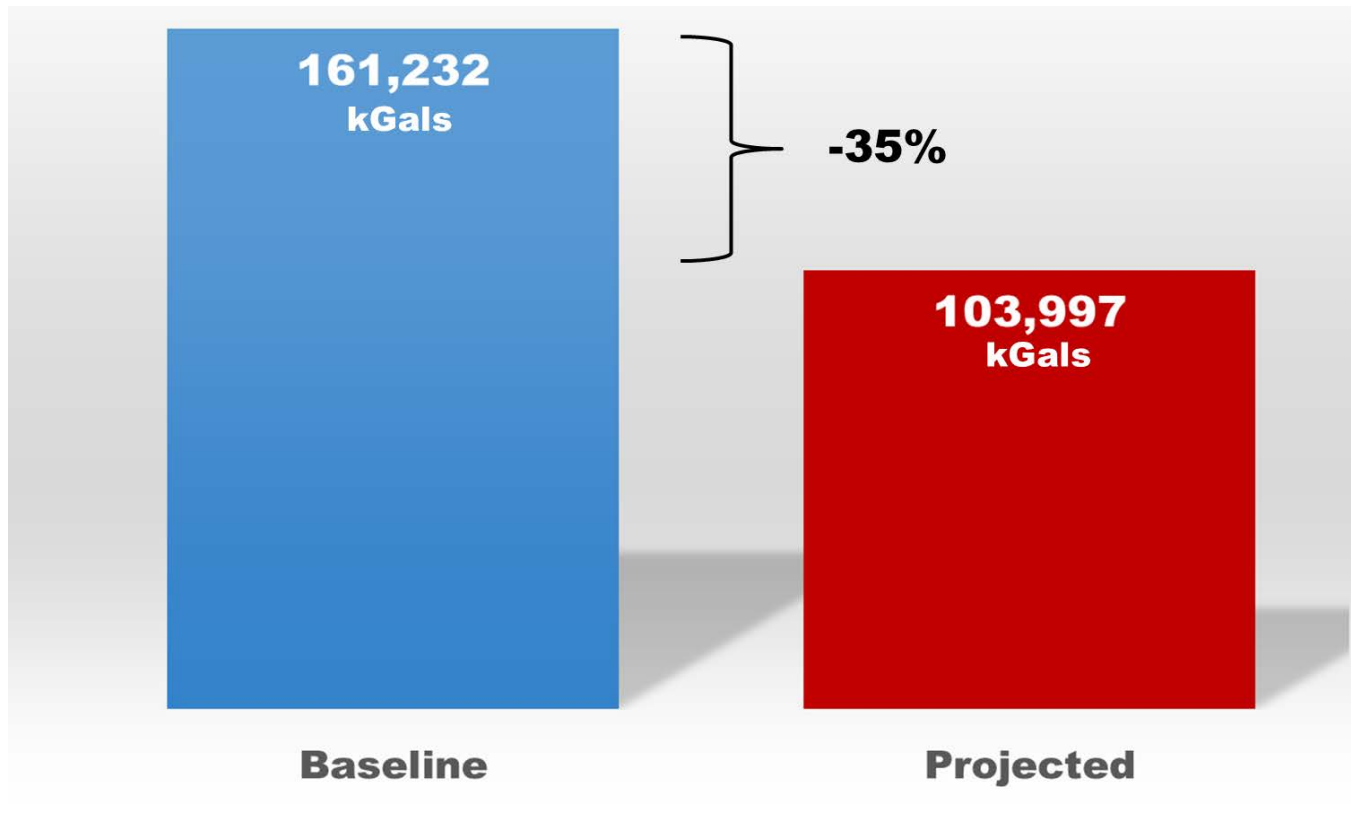
This also allows the soil to soak up water making it available longer to the roots. When combined with the "cycle and soak" watering strategy, less water is needed to keep grass play and sport fields healthy and usable year round.

California's drought is growing in severity each passing year but despite this challenge Hemet Unified School District has been able to reduce water consumption more each year compared to the amount of water that would normally be required when not using these strategies.

Going forward Hemet USD has a large list of projects still to complete that will further strengthen their conservation campaign. These projects include more soil supplementation with water absorbing organic fertilizers. They will also begin turf removal projects in areas deemed decorative in favor of desert landscape designs that use a small fraction of the water that grass requires. These projects are projected to reduce Hemet USD's water needs by as much as 57 million gallons annually. The efforts to conserve have been ongoing and will continue for years to come. Projects on this list begin this summer as they will convert over 8,000 sprinkler heads in the expansive garden areas at Tahquitz High School to a drip irrigation system. This conservation measure will reduce the water needs in these areas by two thirds and drip irrigation systems are much less prone to breaks and leaks.

	DG/Solar Replace Grass with Decomposed Granite	PLANTERS Convert Sprayers to Drip Lines	TURF REMOVAL	ESTIMATED GALLONS SAVINGS PER DAY	kGal Per 160 day Watering Year
ASPIRE CDS (26866 San Jacinto St)		X	X	34,000	5,440
BAUTISTA CREEK	X	X	X	63,000	10,080
CAWSTON	X	X	X	33,660	5,386
DARTMOUTH		X	X	26,715	4,274
DIAMOND VALLEY	X	X	X	29,245	4,679
HARMONY		X	X	16,724	2,676
JACOB WIENS			X	20,924	3,348
McSWEENY	X		X	13,939	2,230
TAHQUITZ (Front Areas Not On Reclaimed Water)		X	X	76,978	12,317
VALLE VISTA	X		X	42,533	6,805
			Total	357,719	57,235

The bar chart below shows that the district can reduce another 35% when it is able to implement all of the additional conservation projects in its plan.



Four of the district's schools use reclaimed water for their large playfields and consequently do not count against the reduction targets announced by the State. West Valley High School's fields and grass areas around the school have been on reclaimed water for years and therefore do not qualify for any of the turf removal incentives being offered by the water companies.

Hemet Unified School District is committed to responsible stewardship of all our natural resources. Due to the widespread drought conditions across the region and in all of California, the necessity to conserve is at the forefront. For Hemet Unified School District, conservation is the culture and they stand ready to not only do their part but to also take part in educating the public on the best practices that have, and continue to have a positive impact on our resource management.