

HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on [2017.07.17](#)

Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:

**Historic Low:** 172.20 ft. (As of 2016.10.07)

**Historic High:** 295.30 ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)

**Current:** 179.40 ft. (As of 2017.06.30; 1.6 ft lower than last month of June, 60.75% vs High @ 295.30 ft.).

**Related link:**

<http://www.watermaster.org/>

## **Californians' water savings dropped again, but just barely**

By [Steve Scauzillo](#), *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*

Statewide water conservation numbers dropped again in July, the second month of the state's new, relaxed plan to save water during a record drought.

Californians used 20 percent less water in July as compared to the same month in 2013, state water officials reported Wednesday. That number fell 1.5 percent from the state's water conservation rate in June.

"Not as good as last summer but still good," Jelena Hartman, manager with the State Water Resources Control Board, said.

Southern California recorded a large drop in water conservation this summer as compared to last summer. The state's most populous region dropped more than many other areas of the state, plunging from 28.2 percent conservation in July 2015 to 16.9 percent in July 2016, according to the numbers.

After easing restrictions following a wetter winter in Northern California, the board kept its promise to examine — even call out — water providers whose numbers fell too far.

Among cities, Malibu, Anaheim and Vallejo dropped to less than 10 percent savings in 2016, after peaking at 20 percent the year before. The Yucaipa Valley Water District also fell by that much.

The city of Bakersfield and the San Juan Water District in suburban Sacramento also have experienced large conservation decreases so far this year.

"While Californians have maintained their conservation awareness and practices without top-down mandates, we are watching trends in parts of California that suggest some areas may be easing up more than the improved conditions may warrant, while other areas are continuing to conserve for the long term," said SWRCB Chairwoman Felicia Marcus.

On the flip side, 10 suppliers were singled out as "water heroes" by the board for continuing to save water at nearly the same rates as in 2015. Most are in Northern California but two — Alhambra and the San Gabriel Valley Water Co. — are from Southern California.

"Our customers realize there is still a drought and they did their part," said Dan Arrighi, water resources manager with the San Gabriel Valley Water Co., a private water supplier serving 217,000 people in Los Angeles County.

Customers faced surcharges if they went over a pre-set allotment. Also, the agency offered free water audits and sent experts to homes and apartments to look for leaky faucets and hand-out water limiters

and rebates for low-flush toilets. As a result, the water company pumped 29,400 acre-feet of water from the underground basin in fiscal year 2015-2016, the lowest amount since 1973, he said.

In Alhambra, people can report water wasters on the city's mobile app Gateway Alhambra, said Chris Paulson, a spokesman for the city. The city has also used banners and yard signs to encourage conservation.

Efforts like these were extraordinary, Hartman said. But even water providers that didn't hit this mark still deserve some credit, she said, as most reported decreases in water-use. Of the nearly 400 suppliers who reported to the state board, more than half saved more than 20 percent in July, reported Jasmine Oaxaca, manager with the SWRCB's enforcement division.

Cumulative water savings reached 619 billion gallons from June 2015 through July 2016, enough to supply water for one year to 9.5 million people, Hartman said. Statewide conservation stayed fairly steady at 23.8 percent, the lowest cumulative total in 14 months, and slightly lower than the 25 percent ordered by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"These reductions in water production and savings of water are needed because we are still in drought," Hartman said. About 83 percent of the state remains in some form of a drought, the agency reported. In August 2011, only a small part of the extreme southeastern part of the state was "abnormally dry" and no part of California was placed into one of the four drought categories: moderate, severe, extreme and exceptional, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

On June 1, state officials ended emergency drought conservation targets. Instead, water suppliers were required to set their own conservation goals based on their assessments of what their three-year water supply will be if the drought continues.

Marcus said even without mandatory targets, conservation should continue.

"We are continuing to monitor conservation levels," Hartman told the board. "We are looking at individual suppliers more closely and following up."

**Related link:**

<http://www.sgvtribune.com/environment-and-nature/20160907/californians-water-savings-dropped-again-but-just-barely>

## **Water conservation now a way of life in California**

This winter delivered much-needed rain and snow across California, refilling reservoirs and bringing an end to the historic, five-year drought for most of the State.

Underground basins, like the one that provides La Puente Valley County Water District (the District) with its drinking water supply, are slower to improve. After many consecutive dry years, the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin hit an all-time low in October 2016 and will require more than one wet winter to recover.

Even though Governor Jerry Brown declared an end to the drought in April and lifted mandatory cutbacks, he called for **water conservation to be a way of life in California** and banned wasteful water use.

Conservation will help ensure water reliability, but more must be done. That's why the District is working with other water providers to manage levels in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin and maintain long-term water reliability.

Part of this groundwater management effort includes purchasing additional imported water to help fill the basin, an added expense that will impact our rates beginning next year. The District is doing its best to minimize the impact of rising water costs, but an unreliable water supply will be far more expensive in the end.

**Related link:**

<http://www.lapuentewater.com/#Newsletters>

## **Going by the book to create a landscape that's good for California**

As Southern California gardeners select drought-friendly plants and keep water conservation in mind, it would be wise to not forget about maintenance.

For those with questions about organization and upkeep or who simply like doing things by the book, there are plenty of options, including the recently released “California Friendly: A Maintenance Guide for Landscapers, Gardeners and Land Managers,” by Douglas Kent.

For Kent, the book is not about sales. In fact, through a first-ever collaboration among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Metropolitan Water District and Southern California Gas Co., the books are free. Hardcover versions are offered when you sign up for a Be Water Wise class. Or you can download the book at [bewaterwise.com/GMG.shtml](http://bewaterwise.com/GMG.shtml). The idea is to provide information that helps gardeners create a space that is beautiful and sustainable for the long term.

Many homeowners listened to the clarion calls to conserve water, ripping out more than 170 million square feet of thirsty green lawns during the past eight years, Kent said. They replaced the grass with “California-friendly” landscaping. Yet, for many, maintaining those landscapes hasn’t been easy, resulting in sad-looking and ecologically challenged yards.

Couple that with pronouncements about the lengthy drought being over and the lifting of some water restrictions, and concerns rise that people will revert back to more familiar water-wasting options. That shouldn’t happen, Kent said. Water reliability is dependent on everyone using wisely. “(The book) covers the key aspects of managing a modern landscape: irrigation and working with recycled water; water, fertilization and regeneration requirements for hundreds of plants (most native); natural strategies for weed and pest problems; and managing storm water-capture opportunities, including rain barrels,” he said in an email.

The book is comprehensive — with chapter after chapter of do’s, don’ts and advice — and there are also answers to some important questions. How often should you water? How can you handle natural pest control? How can you manage various surfaces and runoff? Which grasses, perennials, shrubs, succulents and cactuses work and, better yet, how do you take care of them properly? Consider the book a guide and resource.

“Creating and maintaining landscapes takes all kinds of people: Owners, managers, contractors, vendors and specialists are vital to a landscape’s success. But it is the men and women in our gardens that ultimately get the job done — the people who get their hands dirty hauling manure, scraping their skin reaching for a weed and enduring harsh weather to preserve beautiful spaces,” he wrote in the book’s dedication.

Kent wants gardeners and consumers to think beyond plant lists and irrigation practices and accept the belief that treating the Southern California landscape correctly directly affects its health and vibrancy along with the people who live here.

He is trying to do his part, working with Ecological Land Management in Orange and writing five other books, including “Firescaping” and “Ocean Friendly Gardens.” In addition, he is the spokesman for the SoCalGas seminar “Energy Smart Landscaping” and teaches land management at Cal Poly Pomona. The environment is a topic close to his heart. Landscape irrigation should be considered a luxury, and one managed carefully, he said.

“Why I do what I do is truly a mystery, but I can tell you what I tell my parents when they ask when I’ll get a real job — California is changing rapidly and all of us are standing at a unique point in time. We can change its future. Right now we have the resources, time and will to create a healthy California. That hasn’t always been the case,” he said. “I am not only committed to a sustainable California, but a livable, enjoyable and fun state, too. Landscapes will play a central role in that future.”

Related link:

**Related link:**

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/06/04/going-by-the-book-to-create-a-landscape-thats-good-for-california/>

## **SoCalGas Announces \$450,000 in Grants to Environmental Nonprofits Organizations with clean air, energy or water projects may apply by Aug. 18.**

**Jun 29, 2017**

LOS ANGELES, June 29, 2017—[Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) today announced the company will award \$450,000 in grants to environmental nonprofits this year as part of its third annual Environmental Champions Initiative, a fund that supports projects focused on clean air, energy or water. The company will accept applications from qualified 501c3 organizations within its service territory from now until Aug. 18.

SoCalGas has awarded more than \$1 million to environmental nonprofits over the past two years alone. Last year, 43 organizations received grants in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The prior year, the company gave grants to 37 organizations.

“The Environmental Champions Initiative is just one way SoCalGas invests in creating a cleaner and healthier future for California,” said George Minter, regional vice president of external affairs and environmental strategy at SoCalGas. “The nonprofits we select as Environmental Champions deliver high-impact programs spanning a wide variety of environmental issues. We continue to be impressed with the breadth and depth of the innovative projects we have supported with the fund.”

Clean and renewable energy, neighborhood restoration and air quality monitoring and reporting are just a few of the types of projects that past Environmental Champions have worked on.

“Many schools are located near busy freeways in Los Angeles County, which unfortunately means that our youth are exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution regularly,” said Scott Chan, program director of Special Service for Groups/Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement, one of last year’s recipients. “Through the generous support of SoCalGas, we engaged and empowered youth in the areas of citizen science and advocacy and worked to make schools a safer place for them to be healthy.”

**Related link:**

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137306>

## **SoCalGas Joins Nest to Announce Results of Winter Seasonal Savings Energy Efficiency Program**

**Owners of select smart thermostats across Southern California eligible for up to \$125 in bill credits**

**Jun 29, 2017**

LOS ANGELES, June 29, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) today joined smart thermostat provider [Nest](#) to announce the preliminary results of last winter's Seasonal Savings program. Initial results from the energy efficiency pilot program indicate that Nest smart thermostat owners who participated in the program saved an average of 8 percent more on their home heating use this past winter than the average Nest customer without that program. The 8 percent savings, which collectively adds up to about as much natural gas as it would take to dry 2 million loads of laundry, comes on top of the 10-12 percent average savings on home heating and cooling already attributable to Nest thermostats in the United States.

From January to March 2017, more than 50,000 Nest thermostats participated in the program, which slowly fine-tuned temperatures in a customer's home heating schedule to help them save energy. Automated adjustments made through Seasonal Savings were less than one degree Fahrenheit, on average. These minor changes created more energy-efficient winter heating schedules and helped lower participants' natural gas bills without sacrificing personal preferences or comfort.

"For Southern Californians, conservation is part of our daily lives. From water to electricity, we have made great strides in being responsible stewards of our natural resources," said Lisa Alexander, SoCalGas vice president for customer solutions and communications. "With the introduction of thermostats that can learn our patterns and automatically adjust to our heating and cooling needs, we can collectively save a lot of energy and keep our homes comfortable."

"SoCalGas deployed Nest's Seasonal Savings program to provide our customers with an innovative, technology-driven approach to saving energy and money," said Aaron Berndt, head of west coast energy partnerships for Nest. "Our growing partnership will continue to deliver additional savings to customers while helping to conserve supplies of natural gas in a region where more than 90 percent of residents use gas to heat their homes."

### **Summer Electricity Demand Response Program Provides Up to \$125 in Credits**

While the Seasonal Savings season has ended, SoCalGas sponsors [other initiatives](#) that assist customers conserve energy year-round. The Save Power Days Program, for example, is a Southern California Edison (SCE) demand response program that offers registered smart thermostat users in SCE's service territory **a \$75 credit on their bill**. They receive an **extra \$50 credit if they are also SoCalGas customers**.

To be eligible for the bill credits, participants agree to allow their device to make minor temperature settings adjustments when SCE calls a Save Power Day event, which typically occurs on warmer days when electric usage peaks due to increased air conditioning use.

Owners of Nest thermostats, as well as several other select smart thermostat manufacturers, may apply. Click [here](#) for a complete list of eligible devices, as well as additional program and enrollment information

**Related link:**

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137305>

## **Energy Providers of Southern California Urge Customers to Conserve Electricity and Natural Gas During Heat Wave**

### **Southern Californians Encouraged to Conserve Energy to Avoid Power Outages**

**Jun 20, 2017**

LOS ANGELES, June 20, 2017 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- The Energy Providers of Southern California are urging customers to conserve electricity and natural gas during this week's heat wave. The California Independent System Operator issued a statewide Flex Alert, calling for voluntary electricity conservation from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, and Wednesday, June 21. A Flex Alert is a call for consumers to conserve electricity during heat waves when power use outstrips electricity supply.

About 60 percent of the electricity generated in California comes from power plants that run on natural gas. With the limited availability of natural gas from the Aliso Canyon storage facility, there is less natural gas locally to produce electricity, particularly during high-usage periods, which could lead to power outages.

The Energy Providers of Southern California are urging customers to:

1. Set your AC to 78 degrees, and turn off if away.
2. Reduce the temperature on your water heater.
3. Turn lights off when you leave the room.
4. Use a power strip and turn it off when the connected equipment isn't in use.
5. Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
6. Take short showers instead of baths, and use low-flow shower heads.
7. Only run full loads of clothes and dishes.
8. Wash clothes in cold water.
9. Keep windows and doors closed when heating or cooling your home.
10. Clean or change air filters regularly.

The Energy Providers of Southern California is a joint coalition of Southern California natural gas and electric utilities, in partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, and local city governments. Over the past two summers, the Energy Providers of Southern California have supported conservation efforts through [Conserve Energy SoCal](#)—an initiative to bring Southern California residents together to conserve energy, save money and reduce the risk of natural gas and electricity shortages during the summer months.

The Energy Providers are offering the following spokespeople for interviews on energy conservation this summer:

Anaheim Public Utilities, Mike Lyster, Chief Communications Officer: (714) 765-4497

Azusa Light & Water, George F Morrow, Director of Utilities: [gmorrow@ci.azusa.ca.us](mailto:gmorrow@ci.azusa.ca.us), (626) 812-5219

CAISO Media Hotline: (888) 516-NEWS, [ISOMedia@caiso.com](mailto:ISOMedia@caiso.com)

Glendale Water & Power, Atineh Haroutunian, Marketing Manager: [aharoutunian@glendaleca.gov](mailto:aharoutunian@glendaleca.gov), (818) 548-3381

SoCalGas, Melissa Bailey, Office of Media and Public Information: (213) 244-2442 or (213) 453-6537

### **About The Energy Providers of Southern California**

The Energy Providers of Southern California is a coalition of the Greater Los Angeles region's natural gas and electric utilities, in partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator, and local city governments. With 2017 expected to present challenges in natural gas availability, the Energy Providers of Southern California have united in a concerted effort to help the people of Southern California conserve energy and avoid shortages through educational programming.

Members include: Azusa Light & Water (ALW), Burbank Water & Power (BWP), California Independent System Operator (CAISO), City of Colton Electric Utility (CCEL), Glendale Water & Power (GWP), Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), Pasadena Water & Power (PWP), Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), Southern California

### **Related link:**

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137302>

## **SCE, Greenlining Institute Partner to Develop Community-Centric Solutions for Air Quality, Climate**

**June 27, 2017**

Media Contact:

**Sarah Bryce**, (424) 362-9462

**Bruce Mirken**, Media Relations, Greenlining Institute, (415) 846-7758

ROSEMEAD, Calif., June 27, 2017 — Southern California Edison, a leader in the transformation of the energy sector, today announced a partnership with [The Greenlining Institute](#), a leading California policy and advocacy group working on environmental and social equity, to develop community-centric solutions for healthy air and a healthy climate.

This partnership is a major step toward direct engagement on clean energy access, air quality and climate change issues in Southern California. Greenlining will facilitate a collaborative conversation between SCE and organizations working in low-income communities disproportionately impacted by air emissions and other environmental influences.

Working together, the parties can craft and support state and local policies and programs to improve air quality for underrepresented communities and bring clean energy technology investment, “green” jobs and job training to them.

“Healthy air and a healthy climate go hand in hand, and in order to improve local air quality and [to meet the state’s 2030 greenhouse gas targets](#), it is important that all Californians, regardless of neighborhood or income, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the clean energy revolution,” said SCE President Ron Nichols. “This includes adoption of electric vehicles, energy efficiency, distributed renewable energy and job training for clean energy jobs. Partnering with The

Greenlining Institute is one of the many ways we are [listening to customers](#) about the best ways to bring clean energy technology to everyone. ”

Orson Aguilar, president of The Greenlining Institute, said, “Partnering with SCE — to shine a spotlight on obstacles to widespread adoption of electric vehicles and to look at different funding mechanisms to give disadvantaged communities access to renewable energy — means that we have succeeded in bringing environmental equity issues to the mainstream, and together we can work up and down the power chain to craft smart programs and policies to move everyone forward.”

More than 20 community organizations attended the first direct engagement meeting June 8 co-hosted by SCE and Greenlining. The group discussed key elements and benefits of community solar project design, including community ownership, job training and education and awareness.

SCE has already initiated several programs to speed the adoption of clean energy technology to lower greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Last January, SCE filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) [a wide-ranging plan](#) for expanding electric transportation in its service area. Consistent with [SCE’s longstanding role in supporting electric transportation](#) to reduce air pollutant emissions and reduce carbon emissions, the plan aims to increase electrification of cars, buses, medium- and heavy-duty trucks and industrial vehicles and equipment. SCE recently launched the Clean Fuel Rewards Program, which gives a \$450 cash rebate to SCE customers who buy a new or previously-owned EV.

SCE also works to speed energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption by offering CPUC-authorized programs to income-qualifying customers — Solar for Affordable Housing (SASH), [Solar for Multifamily Housing \(MASH\)](#) and the [Energy Savings Assistance Program](#), which helps income-qualified households conserve energy and reduce their electricity costs.

**Related link:**

<http://newsroom.edison.com/releases/sce-greenlining-institute-partner-to-develop-community-centric-solutions-for-air-quality-climate>

by ***Ted Chang***

HHIA Board Member, Utility