

# PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



## LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

### **Councilman Smith Proposes Rebates for Those Who Install Weather-Sensitive Sprinkler Devices That Save Water**

**Los Angeles** – Councilman Greig Smith introduced a motion Wednesday, February 18, that would offer homeowners and businesses rebates for installing devices that automatically adjust sprinkler watering levels based on weather conditions, a move to conserve L.A.’s precious water resources amidst the drought.

“It doesn’t make sense to water a wet lawn,” Councilman Smith said. “Most people do not take the time to shut off their sprinklers when it rains. With rebates for automatic sprinkler controllers, we can help residents become part of the solution and conserve water.”

The Los Angeles region is suffering a severe drought plus water supply shortages. The Eastern Sierra snowpack, which supplies 35% of the City’s water, is at its lowest levels in years. The City’s water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) have also been significantly reduced because of lower water levels in the Colorado River Aqueduct and because of lawsuits to protect the endangered Delta Smelt in Northern California.

To address the water crisis, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners is considering a proposal to limit lawn watering to twice a week, because approximately 40% of water use in L.A. is for irrigation of lawns and gardens. The Board will also consider higher water-shortage rates to encourage residents to conserve.

Councilman Smith’s motion would offer full rebates from the Department of Water and Power to residents or businesses that install weather-based sprinkler controllers. The devices, which are commercially available now, use satellite control or are based on moisture levels in the ground, and can reduce water use by 20 % or more by adjusting watering levels.

The motion would also require the devices at all City-owned properties, and asks CalTrans to report on its water use in landscaping on medians and freeway embankments within the City that use DWP water.

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