

News Release



For Immediate Release
March 20, 2014

Contact:
Vicky Waters, (916) 653-5115
Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov

California State Parks Begins Implementing Water Conservation Efforts

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – As California faces one of the driest periods in state history, California State Parks is doing everything it can to help in the effort. The department is currently assessing the potential impacts of the drought on state parks as it heads into the busy summer season. California State Parks will also begin taking swift action in those parks that are already feeling the impact of low water levels.

“These are challenging times for all Californians where every drop of water counts. Our parks are starting to take steps to conserve water, while continuing to offer quality recreation,” said Director of California State Parks Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.).

Statewide, all park units have been asked to reduce landscape irrigation by 20 percent; install water conservation signage inside state buildings and restrooms; accelerate replacement and upgrade of landscape irrigation and control by January 2015; accelerate replacement and upgrade of indoor plumbing fixtures by end of January 2015; and replace or upgrade remaining older inefficient water-using cooling systems by January 2016.

Some measures being taken currently include:

- **Mount Diablo State Park:** Most water in the park is produced through a series of springs that is fed to various water tanks, treated, tested and then is ready for use by the public. Most of the park’s permanent flushing restrooms have been closed and portable restrooms have been provided. The showers and water faucets in the campground have been shut-off. Many of the water faucets within the park have also been shut-off.
- **Hearst San Simeon State Park:** Cambria Water District imposed mandatory 20% reductions in water usage to all customers, affecting Hearst San Simeon State Park. Day-use restrooms will be closed at Santa Rosa Creek, Leffingwell Landing and Washburn day-use areas. Chemical toilets with exterior hand sanitizer stations will be placed near the closed restrooms. The San Simeon campground will no longer offer

showers and the RV dump station will be closed. In early spring, the Hearst Castle Visitor Center restrooms will close, and chemical restrooms with hand-sanitizer stations will be installed.

- **Samuel P. Taylor State Park:** Water supply is at critically low levels. In order to meet the park's basic water needs, and comply with water conservation, the park has taken the following actions:
 - All park showers and the park dump station will be out of service until further notice.
 - RV's and trailers will not be able to fill their water tanks at the park.
 - Restrooms with flush toilets and all water spigots may be closed without notice, in which case chemical toilets will be made available.

California State Parks encourages visitors to also conserve water, and report any leaks they encounter during their visit to California State Park employees. We also urge visitors to bring plenty of drinking water during their visit in case water is not available in campgrounds and day-use areas.

Visit Drought.CA.Gov to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought, and for more water conservation ideas, visit SaveOurH2O.org

California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

###