Governor Declares Second Emergency Drought Proclamation

On Friday, April 25, Governor Jerry Brown signed a sweeping, new emergency drought proclamation, cutting red tape for a variety of government functions to help water agencies find new supplies and to press the public to use water carefully. He called for more emergency drought efforts and stated, “I call on every city, every community, every Californian to conserve water in every way possible.”

For the first time in 15 years, drought has hit 100% of California. Much of California is still in an "extreme" or even "exceptional" state of drought. Not one acre in California is within its normal rainfall level. Reservoirs are approximately only at 60 % of their average levels.

Locally, Huntington Beach fares much better than other parts of the state that have very limited water resources. Over the past 20 years, the Metropolitan Water District has spent more than $15 billion in storage and infrastructure improvements that the region will be calling on to sustain supplies during these extremely dry times. Huntington Beach is also fortunate to have access to the groundwater aquifer and has ten (10) wells that are maintained by City employees in the Public Works Utilities Division. However, with the current drought conditions, and the dry, hot, summer months ahead, water conservation is still extremely important. We can all make adjustments to the ways we use our water, so please use water wisely.

Ways of conserving water can be very simple. Did you know that turning the water off when you brush your teeth saves 2.5 gallons per minute? Another water wise choice is to adjust your irrigation controller to reduce the number of days and minutes that you water your landscape. Doing so can save hundreds of gallons of water. By making some small changes to the way we use water, we can reduce wasting water, and help save our resources.

Go to the HB Water Conservation website, www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hbwat for water saving tips, water wise gardening, and upcoming events. Currently, rebates are offered for turf removal, smart irrigation timers, sprinkler nozzles, clothes washers, toilets, soil moisture sensor controllers and rain barrels. These rebates are currently available through the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) at www.mwdoc.com/rebates.
Spring Baskets for Low-Income Seniors
The Assistance League of Huntington Beach donated 50 spring baskets for low-income home bound seniors. The gift bags brought a bit of cheer to the seniors as well as some much needed assistance items. Each recipient received durable food items, personal care and hygiene items, household cleaning supplies as well as stamps and stationary. Each bag was delivered to one of senior services care management clients along with a holiday greeting card and a grocery gift card.

The Assistance League Dream Catchers program works closely with senior services to provide holiday baskets several times a year as well as grocery gift card assistance throughout the year. This helps to ease some of the financial constraints that many older adults face as well as bring some holiday cheer.

Holiday Meals Delivered for Seniors
Huntington Beach Senior Services volunteers delivered holiday meals prepared by Chef Andy at Sunrise Senior Living to 65-older residents. Pat, an HB Senior Services volunteer helped Chef Andy with the logistics of passing out 65 meals to volunteers. She said, “Chef Andy was awesome! He had all the meals waiting on tables in the parking lot.” The older residents’, who might otherwise be alone on the holiday, enjoyed a festive meal of sliced ham, potatoes au gratin, baby carrots and apple pie. Both volunteers and elders enjoyed the short visit. One young 16 year old volunteer, Nathan, delivering for the first time enjoyed the opportunity to “give back” A phrase he learned from one of the seniors he delivered a meal to. Another gentleman told Nathan that, “Rodgers Seniors Center has been so wonderful to me. I’m thrilled to get this meal and all the goodies!” The seniors received goodies galore from local groups. Included with the meal were Spring potholders crocheted by the Handy Crafters, Spring greeting cards handmade by the National Charity League and placemats decorated by Eader elementary school children. Funded by the HBCOA and the Handy Crafters, Holiday Meals are delivered to qualified older adults in Huntington Beach on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.
**Office of Business Development**

**Fair Housing Walk In Counseling on Monday, May 5**
The Fair Housing Foundation, in partnership with the City of Huntington Beach, will provide a free housing counseling walk-in clinic at City Hall on Monday, May 5 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the Fifth Floor of City Hall. A counselor will be present to discuss tenant/landlord disputes and concerns or to answer questions about Fair Housing laws. Those with questions or in need of immediate assistance need not wait for the clinics or training, as Fair Housing Foundation counselors are available Monday-Friday by calling (800) 446-3247 and information is also available online at www.fairhousingfoundation.com.

**Planning & Building**

**New “Beach Promenade” Building**
On April 23, 2014, the Building Division issued building permits to start construction for a new retail and restaurant building in the Beach Promenade center. The Beach Promenade shopping center is located at the southeast corner of Beach Boulevard and Atlanta Avenue. The new building will be a total of 21,616 square feet of commercial and offices uses in two stories.

The ground floor includes 11,581 square feet for retail/restaurant uses and the second floor consists of 10,035 square foot for office use. Construction is expected to last six months with an anticipated opening date of October 1, 2014.

**Surfboards on Parade — May 1 Event!**
The Huntington Beach Art Center is hosting the HB Rotary’s grand unveiling of the final surfboards for the Surfboards on Parade event on Thursday May 1 at 6 p.m. Tickets for the event are $25 and can be purchased from the Surfboards on Parade website, www.surfboardsonparade.org. This amazing surf art experience includes 25 shapers and artists creating 25 custom boards that will be placed in various locations around Huntington Beach. Surfboards on Parade is a fundraising event that will raise funds for three beneficiaries: Hoag Hospital's skin cancer...
Hold it Right There! @ the Library

You’ve been waiting patiently (or impatiently) for that book you placed on hold, and now you’re about to go on vacation, when you won’t be able to pick up the book if it’s your turn. What to do? Just like putting a temporary stop on mail delivery, Library hold requests can be temporarily suspended either in person or from the comfort of home by following these instructions:

Visit [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org)
Click on the brown “My Account/Renew” tab
Login on the left side of the screen, click where it says “Hold Requests”
Check the box(es) of the titles you need to temporarily suspend
Click the "Suspend/Reactivate" button

To reactivate the hold request, simply repeat the process when you return from vacation. Library staff can also assist with suspending orreactivating hold requests. For more information, call 714-842-4481.

Ballet Etudes will be performing Coppelia, May 6 and May 7 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Library Theater. Ballet is roughly 60 minutes long. Tickets are $5 each and can be purchased at the children’s desk or at the door. Children under 1 who sit in a parent’s lap are free. This charming classic ballet is about an eccentric toymaker who creates a doll who is so lifelike that many of the local villagers believe she is a real person. One such person is Franz, who falls in love with the doll, much to the dismay of his sweetheart, Swannilda. Just what will she do to win Franz back? This comedic ballet was created by the author of the Nutcracker. Filled with luscious music, slapstick and beautiful dancing, this ballet promises plenty of enchantment. For all ages.

Last Call to Purchase Four (4) Rain Barrels for $40!

We have just added another [free](http://www.RainBarrelsIntl.com) Rainwater Harvesting Class for June 7, 2014. Class will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. and rain barrel pick-up is from 10 to 11 a.m. The class will be held at the Huntington Beach Utilities Yard, 19001 Huntington Street, at the corner of Garfield Avenue & Huntington Street. You MUST reserve a rain barrel by June 5 at [www.RainBarrelsIntl.com](http://www.RainBarrelsIntl.com), under the EVENTS tab or call (919) 602-6316. Join us and learn about all the benefits that rain water barrels provide and how to install and maintain them. These are high quality barrels with brass hardware. They are food grade containers that are repurposed to capture rainwater, instead of going into the landfills. Not only are you saving water and preventing urban runoff, but you are recycling a product and giving it a second life. Rain Barrels are available for $85 each, but with a $75 rebate offered by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), your cost is only $10 each. Rain barrels normally retail for $135 to $149. This might be your last chance to receive the rebates on four barrels, due to changes to the program.
Help H.B. Remain #1!

Huntington Beach is currently #1 in the nation, but the other cities are close behind us in this competition. **April 30th is the last day to make your pledge for water conservation at [www.mywaterpledge.com](http://www.mywaterpledge.com).** By finishing in 1st place, entrants will have a chance to win a Toyota Prius and other prizes. Ask family and friends to join the contest too. Don’t miss out on your chance to win the Prius!

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**Warner Avenue Gravity Sewer Project**

Pacific Coast Highway, (PCH) pipeline work, which commenced in March, is 25% complete as of this date. To minimize traffic flow impacts phased traffic control installations will continue to occur to perform the work. At a minimum, there will be one lane open each direction on PCH at any given time through this period. This work is forecast to be completed the latter half of May 2014.

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**Beach Boulevard Sewer Project**

The Beach Boulevard Sewer Improvement Project is approximately 40% complete with most of the mainline installed between Slater Avenue and Talbert Avenue in place. This project extends from Slater Avenue to Ellis/ Main along Beach Boulevard. A portion of the new sewer line will continue down Ellis Avenue.

The city’s contractor has been working at night to minimize traffic impacts on Beach Boulevard. However, this weekend (May 3, 4 - Saturday/Sunday) the contractor will be working during the day between Ellis and Talbert to install pipe in front of the residential areas.

The working hours during this period are 8 am to 10 pm each day. Traffic on Beach Boulevard will be reduced down to two lanes for north bound traffic starting at 8 a.m. through Sunday evening at 10 p.m. Alternate routes, like Newland Street and Gothard Street, are highly recommended for commuters. Message boards, traffic control and flagmen will be in place to guide traffic.
Information Services News

Did you know the City website contains a page that has popular links to Water and Sewage service information? You can find links to information about our drinking water quality, water conservation program, water rate information, water sources, etc. To find a link to this information, click on the Services navigation tab and then click on the Water and Sewage link.

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/services/water-sewage.cfm

Police Department News

The majority of contact law enforcement has with the public happens during emergencies or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. “Coffee with a Cop” breaks down barriers allowing for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction. We will be having these on a regular basis, at varying locations around Huntington Beach. Our first will be at Starbucks in Meadowlark Plaza, 5141 Warner Ave., on Wednesday, April 30 - 7 to 9 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.
Recently, the Huntington Beach Senior Services held their annual volunteer appreciation luncheon honoring volunteers who have given 40 or more hours of service. Special recognition was also given to long-term volunteers. More than 10 people had served more than 20 years and two for over 30 years! 200 volunteers were treated to a wonderful lunch at Meadowlark Golf Club. Music by Tony Odell Rodgers had everyone up singing and dancing by the end of the lunch.

In 2013, volunteers gave 54,033 hours of service which, according to the State, equates to an in-kind donation of $1,423,229.32 to the City of Huntington Beach. Volunteers answered 16,565 phone calls, made 14,056 daily care calls, prepared and served 11,598 hot lunches, and registered 23,957 older residents for service. They assembled 43,000 Outlook newsletter’s, escorted 1,596 shoppers and provided 30,106 transportation trips driving 141,326 miles. Volunteer computer teachers and assistants taught 1,885 lessons and longevity-stick volunteers taught 5,907 lessons.

The most important measurement, however, is the quality of what they do and the difference they make in the lives of Huntington Beach seniors. If you are interested in volunteering with senior services please contact Teri Simonis, Volunteer Services Coordinator at 714-374-1544 or by email at tsimonis@surfcity-hb.org.
City Hall Directory

City Attorney          (714) 536-5555
City Clerk            (714) 536-5227
Passports             (714) 536-1600
City Council         (714) 536-5553
City Manager         (714) 536-5502
Community Services    (714) 536-5486
Beach Operations     (714) 536-5281
Business Development  (714) 536-5542
Finance Department   (714) 536-5630
Business Licenses    (714) 536-5267
Fire Department      (714) 536-5411
Human Resources      (714) 536-5492
Information Services (714) 536-5515
Library Services     (714) 842-4481
Planning & Building  (714) 536-5271
Code Enforcement     (714) 375-5155
Police Department    (714) 960-8811
Public Works         (714) 536-5431