



City of Brea

August 13, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

Subject: "Water Budgets, Not Water Rationing"
City of Brea Response

In accordance with your report, the City of Brea was requested to respond to Findings F-1 and F-2 and Recommendations R-1, R-2a, R-2b, and R-2c. Our response is provided below:

Grand Jury Finding: F-1

Opportunities for further water conservation exist especially with regard to landscape watering.

The City of Brea agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Finding: F-2

Conservation pricing, or tiered pricing, with a fair and reasonable base allotment, followed by tiers of higher rates, can be an effective tool to motivate further conservation.

The City of Brea agrees with the finding.

Explanation:

The City of Brea currently has a tiered rate structure. As of July 1, 2008 tier 1 water is \$1.95 per CCF for the first 12 units. Tier 2 water is \$2.32 per CCF for all water above 12 units.

City Council

Don Schweitzer
Mayor

John Beaman
Mayor Pro Tem

Ron Garcia
Councilmember

Roy Moore
Councilmember

Marty Simonoff
Councilmember

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Grand Jury Recommendation: R-1

Continue to emphasize methods and availability of tools that assist the customers in understanding weather-based irrigation practices....

- *Providing a hotline for assisting the public with landscape irrigation information*
- *Providing a countywide soil texture map on the MWDOC website*
- *Developing an Orange County specific water calculator on the MWDOC website*

The City of Brea notes that the recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by MWDOC for the City of Brea and all other Orange County Agencies by November 20, 2008.

Explanation:

The City of Brea will be using the services of Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to emphasize methods and availability of tools that assist the customers in understanding weather-based irrigation practices by:

- MWDOC will be providing a hotline for assisting the public with landscape irrigation information.
- MWDOC will be providing a countywide soil texture map on the MWDOC website.
- MWDOC will be developing an Orange County specific water calculator on the MWDOC website.

Grand Jury Recommendation: R-2A

Develop monthly water allocations for each customer based on both of the following:

- *A per-person indoor water allotment that satisfies basic needs*
- *An outdoor water allotment that applies the weather-based method over the customers' landscaped area*

The City of Brea will not be implementing allocation allotments due to funding and staffing levels.

Explanation:

The City of Brea believes it would be difficult to implement monthly allocations for each customer given existing staffing and funding levels because of the intricacies of developing and implementing the system.

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Grand Jury Recommendation: R-2B

Develop a tiered pricing structure with the first tier based on individual customer water allocation priced at a commodity rate, and subsequent tiers priced significantly higher to encourage conservation. The pricing shall be structured in a manner that will preclude the necessity of price increases as a result of reduced water use.

The recommendation of tiered rates is currently in use, but the recommendation of basing the rates on individual customer water allocations will not be implemented by the City of Brea due to funding and staffing levels.

Explanation:

The City of Brea is currently billing on a tiered rate structure. Due to funding and staffing levels, the city is unable to create individual customer water allocations at this time. Current price structure and the adopted City Resolution to conserve water have resulted in reduced water use.

Grand Jury Recommendation: R-2C

Modify water bills to clearly explain customer monthly allotment and monthly water usage.

The City of Brea will not be listing monthly allotments on customer bills, due to staffing and funding levels.

Explanation:

The City of Brea currently does not have monthly allotments to put on the customers' bills. Prior year's usage is listed and residents are urged to cut their usage by ten percent from the past year.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Schweitzer
Mayor

Cc: Brea City Council
Tim O'Donnell, City Manager
Bill Higgins, Maintenance Services Director