

Dear Concerned Citizen:

On April 1, 2015 Governor Jerry Brown issued an Executive Order which focused on the current drought facing California. It involved several action items relative to water conservation and most of these have now been implemented by either State Water Board officials or local water purveyors which will impact the aesthetic quality of the Landscape Maintenance Assessment District (LMAD) in Yorba Linda, and indeed all California landscapes to some extent.

The following are brief descriptions of these conservation measures and ways under review to cope with them to maximize the long-term sustainability of the LMAD and other City managed facilities:

- As of May 20, 2015 all irrigation has been shut down for turf grass growing in roadway medians. These medians will quickly fade to a dormant state and appear dead. The LMAD is working toward modifying existing irrigation systems to *irrigate trees only* within these medians so that these valuable assets are not permanently lost.
- The Yorba Linda Water District has been mandated to cut water deliveries by 36% versus 2013 levels. As such, the LMAD is limited to irrigating two evenings per week so it is very likely that many LMAD sites will deteriorate through the coming summer. Where landscape zones have reserve funds, the LMAD will work toward renovating these areas by installing replacement plants that are better adapted to less frequent watering than the traditional landscapes that adorn YL currently. Landscape zones that lack the necessary funds can be expected to face a slow deterioration until the drought condition improves.
- Due to this watering limitation, the LMAD will not be able to install any new plants or trees until approximately November of 2015 when weather conditions make it practical to begin planting once again. Significant preliminary steps must be taken such as design and securing competitive bids for work. As such the areas that decline cannot be renovated immediately, even if the funding is available to perform the work, so unfortunately the less than attractive condition will likely persist for several months.
- As several local and arterial landscape benefit zones are currently being subsidized, very little can be done in terms of upgrading to drought friendly plants or designing/constructing more aesthetically pleasing facilities. Everyone's patience is sought as the LMAD works through this process. The LMAD is in the process of focusing as many resources as possible toward this effort to sustain the LMAD well into the future in a condition more in line with prior expectations.
- The water use regulations and restrictions put on the City by the State of California and the Yorba Linda Water District are somewhat dynamic. The City continues to react to different requirements. Long term plans to mitigate the drought and the effects of the water use restrictions are being discussed with the City Council.

Thanks for your understanding,  
Bruce Carleton – Assessment District Manager  
The City of Yorba Linda