

# El Segundo Herald

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## City Council Recap: Stricter Water Conservation Measures Considered

By Brian Simon

City officials hope the region's dwindling water supply won't result in mandatory restrictions for local residents and businesses. During Tuesday night's El Segundo City Council meeting, Public Works Director Dana Greenwood outlined a Metropolitan Water District "model ordinance" designed to curb landscaping and irrigation-related water usage given the ongoing drought and projections that Southern California will receive 10 percent less water starting in the next fiscal year.

According to Greenwood, several South Bay municipalities including Redondo Beach, Lomita and Rolling Hills Estates have already adopted water ordinances that call for increasingly stringent conservation measures to take effect depending on the degree of the water shortage. In looking at whether to amend El Segundo's water conservation ordinance to incorporate MWD requirements, City staff did not recommend adopting the "more severe options," but rather what Greenwood labeled the "minimalist version." Among the base level provisions: no landscape watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.; a 15-minute maximum run time for sprinkler stations; a seven-day grace period to fix any sprinkler system leaks; restriction of water run-off onto sidewalks and streets; and no watering down of sidewalks or driveways. Car washing is allowed, but only with hoses that have self shut-off nozzles. Additionally, drinking water is available at restaurants upon request.

Though not recommending them, Greenwood detailed the restrictions proposed by MWD under the "severe" version of the ordinance. Under the terms of a "level one" water shortage, residents cannot water their lawns more than three days a week from April to October, and just one day a week from November to March (deemed the traditional rainy season). Leaks have to be fixed within three days instead of seven. A "level two" shortage cuts back lawn or landscape watering to two days a week during the warmer months, and requires leaks to be fixed within two days. Under the final level, considered "emergency conditions," landscaping or irrigation watering is not allowed at all except in specific situations, and any leaks have to be fixed within a day. Those willfully violating the ordinance will lose their water service.

Greenwood said staff's recommendation was to schedule a public hearing on the matter and for the Council to adopt a subsequent resolution giving it the flexibility to establish conservation thresholds if and when those are needed. Cities such as Manhattan Beach and Culver City opted for the more flexible approach.

According to Assistant City Attorney Karl Berger, MWD would not impose any specific sanctions if El Segundo fails to adopt the

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## Herald Visits Alabama



Former El Segundo graduates, Class of '53, join together at the Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Pictured in the front row (left to right) Mina (Balls) Tennyson, Fran (Comstock) Rafter-VanHoy, Henry Stuart, Annette (Neifert) Reinhardt. Back row: Beverly (Douglas) McKernan, Bill Broquist, Sherwyn Hyten, John Reinhardt.

## School Board Considers Plan to Balance Budget

By Jesse Blake McCann

The El Segundo School Board was presented with a plan last week to balance the budget for the next school year. This was at one of the ongoing special meetings about stabilizing the El Segundo Unified School District's budget despite statewide cuts to education. Balancing the budget involves three phases of cost reductions, flexibility of state funding, and the money available in the District's general fund.

The District has prepared three phases of cost reductions. Initiating each phase depends on the severity of the District's budget deficit. The phases are also for prioritizing the cuts, Superintendent Geoff Yantz said. He stressed that the staff and programs listed in the phases are all important, but phase one represents cuts of lower priority staff and programs than the other two phases.

Phase one will be used as part of balancing the budget. "If we make the phase one cuts, then that balances the budget, assuming there are no future cuts," Yantz said, "But we know that we're going to have future cuts because of the \$8 billion state deficit that they have right now."

The other potential threat to the District's budget is if the upcoming state propositions don't pass, Yantz said. Then the District will know that there are going to be future cuts. Propositions 1A through 1C will maintain the current education budget for the state and prevent cuts. This is accomplished by extending temporary tax increases and borrowing money from future Lottery profits.

Potential future cuts to educational funding are what phases two and three are for, Yantz said. However, the District may only

need to use parts of the last two phases for balancing their budget.

At the meeting, the Board was presented with the estimated savings from each phase. The cuts made during phase one would save the District \$650,106.34. Phase two would save \$362,414, and phase three would save \$1,059,399. At the time of the presentation, the cuts listed on the three phases were not finalized.

A part of phase two and three involves increasing the class sizes at El Segundo Middle School. ESMS Principal Renée De-

Vore came before the Board and explained the implications of increasing classes to the proposed ratio of students to teacher. Increasing the ratio to 33:1 is on phase two, and increasing the ratio to 34:1 and to 35:1 is on phase three.

At 33:1, the school would lose two elective sections and the reading intervention elective would collapse into the English language development class, DeVore explained. A ratio of 34:1 would make the 33:1 changes, but, in addition, the school would lose three periods

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## Vote for Lieutenant Raymond Garcia

HE'S IN THE RUNNING FOR \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE ON AMERICA'S MOST WANTED ALL-STAR CONTEST

A California policeman who survived a close-quarters gun battle is one of eight finalists for a \$10,000 prize and national recognition as the 2009 *America's Most Wanted All-Star*. Public voting has begun to determine who will be awarded the top honor by the iconic crime-fighting television show in the annual All-Star contest sponsored by Sprint.

In April, 2008, Lieutenant Raymond Garcia of the El Segundo, California,

Police Department and his partner were keeping an eye on a movie theater that had been the scene of recent trouble. When the theater's manager notified the officers that there was an unruly person in the lobby Lt. Garcia and his partner approached the man, who was clearly upset and yelling something about a refund, and asked him to calm down. That's when the suspect pulled a gun out of his pants and opened fire at the two lawmen.

The first shot hit Lt. Garcia in the face, shattering his upper jaw and knocking him to the ground. He got

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