

## PALM SPRINGS TAKING LEAD IN AREA WATER CONSERVATION

### Summary

The Palm Springs City Council plans to discuss "Regulation of Water Use Within the City of Palm Springs" during their next regular meeting. While other agencies are sitting back and doing little to seriously confront valley water overuse and other conservation needs, it appears we now have a government entity that is prepared to lead in this area. Their published discussion document is extensive and includes many excellent examples of steps appropriate for addressing water needs and concerns.

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**Palm Springs, California.** California is facing serious drought issues throughout the state. The Governor has called for significant water usage cutback and other conservation actions. Cities and towns throughout the state are taking serious steps to conserve water supplies. But Coachella Valley communities and government agencies are not part of that parade of concerned water users. We consume more water per capita than in most other communities in the state. Our water rates are among the cheapest. We treat water like air - something that is there in abundance and will always exist. It's simply taken for granted. Our golf courses are among the largest, greenest and heavily landscaped that exist anywhere. Water runs down our gutters. It's used to rinse driveways, wash automobiles and dust off walkways. And yet the local newspaper has published a series of investigatory reports detailing our overuse of water. They reported the underground water aquifer is being depleted. The paper detailed the need for a balance to be struck between the water being used with that which is actually available from sources other than the dwindling supply in the aquifer. Their efforts appear to have convinced few among our valley's leaders for significant action has not occurred. Where are our valley water resource guardians? Who will finally wake up and lead the charge to address our disastrous water use habits and offer solutions that will work?

The failure of Desert Water Agency, Coachella Valley Water District, the other three water districts and our local government agencies to seriously address water conservation issues in our valley continues to be a disappointment. We are serenaded with lots of talk but little action of substance when it comes to critical drought issues and our valley's excessive water usage. Their head-in-the-sand refusal or inability to comprehend, plan and act on the public's behalf is simply unacceptable. Coachella Valley has serious water issues to face. Those in government most responsible are simply ignoring their duty and obligation to resolutely and promptly devise and implement a plan that will bring our water use and available supplies into balance. We can't continue to use more water from the underground storage aquifer than is being replenished. A good plan with an enforcement mechanism to address the issue must be devised.

The Palm Springs City Council recently published the agenda for their upcoming regular council meeting. It appears they may take the initiative, step up to the plate and seriously address our drought and water conservation needs. The council plans to kick off their effort with a discussion outlined in an agenda item titled "*Discussing the Regulation of Water Use Within the City of Palm Springs*". It's a 28-page document that provides an excellent basis from which I'm not only hopeful, but even optimistic, that they will adopt and implement the plan of water conservation we've all been hoping to see here in our valley.

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[Click here to view/download a copy of "Discussing the Regulation of Water Use" document.](#)

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