

## **WATER PRESERVATION METHODS FOR PUBLIC POOL FACILITIES DURING SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

California is implementing water use restrictions to combat the severe drought. The Department of Environmental Health offers the following water saving suggestions for facilities with public and semi-public pools and spas:

- Limit or even discontinue use of splash pads and spray areas.
- Turn off fountains and water features in pool enclosures.
- Engage the services of a certified SCUBA diver to replace light bulbs, loose drain covers, chipped plaster, etc. instead of draining the pool or spa for minor repairs.
- When major work must be done bring in a water storage truck or use a potable water holding tank to capture the water until the work can be completed and the pool/spa refilled.
- If a spa must be drained for repairs or to adjust the chemicals, pump the spa water into the adjacent pool where the chemicals will be diluted, then balance the pool water as needed.
- Change out water thirsty plants within pool enclosures for minimal water usage desert-type vegetation.
- Change standard toilets and lavatory fixtures for low water usage appliances.
- Check plumbing, pumps, filters, hoses, and valves for any cracks and leaks, as well as chipped tiles, uneven decking, and eroded plaster.
- Sweep decks and rake leaves instead of hosing down surfaces.
- Consult a qualified pool operator who can properly balance the pool water and minimize the need for costly water changes.
- Contact the local Environmental Health Plan Check Program regarding the installation of new updated equipment, such as limiting auto-fill devices, ORP liquid chlorine injection systems, DE separation tanks, etc., that can increase the efficiency of recirculation equipment and lessen water waste.
- Install an approved ANSI pool cover to lessen water evaporation (Note: "bubble" type covers are not approved on commercial pools). Contact your local Environmental Health office to discuss whether a particular cover is approved.

If you have other ideas that would help our County save water during drought conditions, please contact our Department to obtain approval to implement your idea. Let's all work together to preserve California's water!