

## Fresno cuts water use in July, August

Published on 09/18/2014 - 10:09 am

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Tighter watering restrictions in Fresno have led to drops in usage in July and August, according to city officials. The City of Fresno reports that water usage in the city dropped in the months of July and August, heeding a call from Gov. Jerry Brown to cut water use statewide.

Total monthly water consumption for July — normally the highest-usage time of year — totaled 5.2 million gallons, down 8 percent from July 2013. That mark surpasses the statewide drop of 7.5 percent reported last week.

For August, water usage was 4.6 million gallons, down 16 percent from last year.

Fresno's Department of Public Utilities reports that the statistics are consistent with an overall trend of water conservation — 25 percent since 2008 and 10 percent from January to May of this year compared to the same period last year.

The city points to its Stage 2 water conservation rules, limiting watering to two days a week, as a big factor for the decrease.

"Our community has responded to the challenge of our ongoing drought crisis and is once again showing why Fresno has been a leader in water conservation for over 20 years," said Thomas Esqueda, Director of Public Utilities for the City of Fresno, in a statement. "What's even more encouraging is the fact that the City is revisiting its plans to provide a safe, clean, reliable water supply so that Fresno can potentially become drought-resilient."

Related story: [City of Fresno to hold water plan forums](#)