



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use

MEDIA CONTACT: Delle Willett
Director of Marketing 619.255.0244
dwillett@sdnhm.org

**Water Exhibition at the San Diego Natural History Museum
Offers Practical Tips on How to Live Water-wise**

San Diego; April 20—The headline on the front-page story in *The San Diego Union-Tribune* on April 15 reads, “Water rates will surge while supply is squeezed.” And the story, by reporter Mike Lee, is that while supply is greater than previously thought, the San Diego region will likely be required to reduce its water use by 8–10% this year. The decrease in water supply will most likely prompt many local water agencies to trigger water-saving rules for residents and businesses, with an emphasis on reducing outdoor waste.

What can the residents of San Diego County do to better prepare themselves for this situation? How can they make a difference? The San Diego Natural History Museum suggests a visit to the water exhibition *WATER: A CALIFORNIA STORY*, which offers timely and practical information on how to live water-wise, and to sign up for the Museum’s water-wise gardening class.

WATER: A CALIFORNIA STORY, created by the San Diego Natural History Museum, begins with background history of water use in San Diego County, beginning with the native Kumeyaay communities, and how today we import more than 80% of our water from the Colorado River and northern California. It continues with photos, maps, video, and hands-on activities, natural history specimens, live animals, and more. Tips and resources for water conservation on a local and regional level are also shared. The exhibition also discusses the effects of a changing climate on our region’s water supply and wildlife and explores how to help maintain sufficient water for people and nature. It also looks at our local and imported water supply, explores present and future challenges, and asks the question: how will we respond?

Through the San Diego County Water Authority, 20-Gallon Challenge, Museum guests can receive \$2 off to visit the exhibition by making the 20-Gallon Challenge pledge. To receive the discount off adult general admission for up to 4 people, take the pledge on the Water Authority’s website <http://www.20gallonchallenge.com>.

The class, *Water-wise and Easy-Care Plants for Your Garden*, taught by Nan Sterman, covers more than 30 plants that are water-wise, easy to take care of and absolutely beautiful in the garden. The class is Tuesday, May 12; 6:30–8:30 PM. Priced at \$25 for members, and \$33 for nonmembers. Call 619.255.0203 to register for this class

Examples of Water Conservation Tips in *WATER: A CALIFORNIA STORY*:

Indoor

Turn off water when brushing teeth. (2 gallons per minute)

Shorten showers. (2.5 gallons per minute)

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. (1.6 gallons per flush)

Landscape Irrigation

Water only before dawn and after dusk to reduce evaporation and interference from wind. (20–25 gallons per day)

Reduce each irrigation cycle by 1–3 minutes, or eliminate one irrigation cycle per week.

Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and run-off. (15–25 gallons per day)

Other Outdoor Ideas

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. (8–18 gallon per minute)

Don't leave the hose running while washing your car. Get a self-closing nozzle to make it easier. (8–18 gallons per minute)

Repair leaking hose bibs. (15–20 gallons per day per leak)

A complete list of tips is listed on the Museum's website, www.sdnhm.org. These tips were developed by the San Diego County Water Authority, 20-Gallon Challenge <http://www.20gallonchallenge.com/residenttips.html>.

The bilingual exhibition, located in the Museum's Discovery Center, was developed and designed by the staff at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The advisory board who guided the creation of *Water: A California Story* includes Jason Foster, San Diego County Water Authority; Marsi A. Steirer, City of San Diego Water Department; Peter MacLaggan, Poseidon Resources Corporation; Eric Larsen, San Diego Farm Bureau; Helen McBrady, SMART Building Products; Wesley Schultz, Professor of Psychology at California State University, San Marcos; Marty Eberhardt, the Water Conservation Garden; Paula Silva, CH2M Hill; and Paul Engstrand, Esq.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is located in Balboa Park at the intersection of Park Blvd. and Village Place. It is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM, closed on Christmas and Thanksgiving. General admission ranges from \$7 to \$13 and includes all exhibitions and films in the Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater. General Admission does not include the current featured exhibition, *BODY WORLDS & The Brain, Our Three Pound Gem*. The Museum's website is www.sdnhm.org.

###