

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### Governor's Weekly Radio Address Water Restriction

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor discusses the mandatory water restrictions that have been imposed due to the lack of rainfall.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's Actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

#### Radio Address for August 6 Water Restrictions

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman.

It's no secret that this summer has been a scorcher. Over the past two months, New Jersey has seen less than two inches of rain compared to our normal rainfall of more than eight inches during this time. The high temperatures and lack of rainfall have combined to lower reservoirs and reduce groundwater.

In fact, water levels have now dipped below 70 percent of capacity in our reservoirs, while the heat has caused water consumption to rise dramatically over the past couple of weeks.

The drought has damaged crops covering 400,000 acres on more than 7,000 farms around the state. On behalf of our farmers, who are so vital to New Jersey's economy, I have sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to request natural disaster relief.

I have also issued an executive order imposing mandatory restrictions on water use statewide because of the drought. I have taken this step only after careful monitoring of reservoir levels and water consumption data, and only after receiving weather forecasts that do not predict significant rainfall within the near future.

Until the drought emergency ends, New Jersey residents are required to observe these restrictions or be subject to fines.

No watering of lawns is permitted.

The only watering of shrubbery that will be permitted is with hand-held hoses.

No "topping off" of swimming pools.

You cannot wash your vehicle at home, although car washes will remain open.

We also call upon all New Jersey citizens to use good water conservation practices. For example:

Fix leaky pipes, toilets and faucets, and turn off faucets when not in use.

Install water-conserving shower heads and faucet aerators.

Run your washing machines and dishwashers only when full.

Water gardens in the evening, and do not use the hose as a broom for cleaning sidewalks or driveways.

For more information on the restrictions, call 1-800-4ITS- DRY. That's 1-800-4-I-T-S-D-R-Y. Or to put it all in numbers, that's 1-800-448-7379.

During this emergency, we will work with major water companies for maximum efficiency of water distribution. We have already made significant investments in our water supply system to improve distribution and ensure water quality, investments that will help us during this emergency. You can be sure that despite the declining water levels in our reservoirs, the water that comes from your tap will remain as pure and clean as under normal circumstances.

Let me also note that the Department of Environmental Protection has issued campfire restrictions that prohibit campfires on the ground. North of the Raritan River, campers can only use elevated grills with gas, propane or electricity. In the central and southern parts of the state, where conditions are not quite as dry, campers may still use wood and charcoal in elevated grills at this time.

We are all hopeful that the blistering heat ends and that we get the rain our farms and neighborhoods and water supplies sorely need. But until the drought is over, we all need to do our part. I know we will, because New Jersey is a state that cares.

Thank you.