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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 11, 2011

Cities Rated for Water Conservation Measures in Los Angeles and Orange Counties *Sierra Club Angeles Chapter encourages improvements to local water conservation measures.*

The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter has released a scorecard which rates local cities for their efforts to mandate water conservation. The survey evaluated the efforts of the cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties by analyzing ordinances adopted in recent years. Area cities were ranked using 19 criteria across three (3) categories that address appropriate water use, avoid water waste, improve building standards, and prescribe water-efficient business practices.

“Despite this year’s rains and record snowpack, long term water shortfalls are projected due to population increases and global climate change. Water conservation ordinances and sustainable water policies create the frontline to address declining water supplies,” said Charming Evelyn, chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Water Committee. “It is incumbent upon local cities to mandate long term, effective water conservation.”

The survey identified only five (5) of the 122 area cities scored “Best” with water-efficient building standards and best practices for commercial and outdoor water use. Burbank, La Palma, La Verne, City of Los Angeles and Mission Viejo lead the way in preparing their residents for more frequent water shortages and preserving existing water supplies. Although half of the cities scored “Good” or “Best”, fifty-five (55) municipalities fail to mandate the effective water conservation measures that are needed to forestall projected water shortages. More information about the survey and its results are posted at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/water/conservation.html> .

“Reliable water resources are essential for the well-being of metropolitan residents and local economies in Southern California,” said Senior Chapter Director, Ron Silverman. “The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club is launching a campaign to influence cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties to update and expand their water conservation measures.”

The survey reviewed ordinances across three (3) general categories as follows.

- Restricted Use measures limit water usage and wasteful water practices when a water shortage is declared by a city. Such measures are usually phased-in and become more restrictive as the temporary water shortage becomes more severe.
- Efficient Use measures generally specify standards for water fixtures and systems in buildings and commercial operations, and for landscapes irrigation. These included standards for toilets rated at 1.28 gallons per flush, showerheads at 2.0 gallons per minute, and smart controllers to avoid overwatering lawns.

- Best Practices describe measures for efficient and effective water use as promoted by organizations such as the California Urban Water Conservation Council and other municipalities.

In response to water shortages in the 1980's, California led the nation when promoting water conservation measures. By publishing the Water Conservation Measures Scorecard, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter provides local cities with a roadmap to update and expand existing water conservation measures in order to meet federal and state water efficiency standards and to work together to better manage use of the region's limited water resources.

The Angeles Chapter is the local voice of the Sierra Club, America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Its 40,000 members in Los Angeles and Orange Counties strive to explore, enjoy and protect nature in their communities and the planet. Learn more about the Angeles Chapter at www.angeles.sierraclub.org.

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