



CENTENNIAL

WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Highlands Ranch community still in a drought watch

Centennial Water and Sanitation District wants to remind Highlands Ranch residents that we are still in a drought watch.

“A drought is not just about precipitation,” said Swithin Dick, Water Rights Administrator for Centennial Water. “Precipitation is one part of the equation, but you also have to look at snow pack, water runoff, demand and water supply. Water rights priority determine who is able to capture the water for its use. Those with earlier water rights can capture the water first. And right now, there is a limited quantity, but high demand.”

Drought is a normal, recurring feature of the Colorado climate. Water shortages from drought can occur quickly and require immediate response or may occur gradually over multiple months or years. A water shortage from drought occurs when available water supply from anticipated runoff and storage is reduced to a level that supporting customer demands is at risk. Not knowing exactly when a drought begins, when it will end, and its severity makes uncertainty one of the defining characteristics of drought.

Centennial Water, the water provider in Highlands Ranch, monitors the water supply for the community on a daily basis. As of July 7, Centennial Water’s reservoir storage was 8,048 AF, or 47% of 17,200 total capacity. Centennial Water’s median storage level for July over the past 10 years has been 8,904 AF, or 52% of the 17,200 capacity.

“Despite the precipitation we have received over the past month, the storage level in our reservoirs has declined. This is because community water demand has increased, which is offsetting the water we have been able to capture,” added Dick.

What can you do to help?

“When we talk about water supply and its direct relation to drought conditions, it provides an opportunity to talk about water conservation,” said Thomas Riggle, Water Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator. “July is Smart Irrigation Month, which is a national public awareness campaign to promote water efficiency. Implementing water saving irrigation practices today not only helps save you money, but will help us keep more water in our storage reservoirs.”

Here are some tips from Centennial Water to remember when irrigating your landscape this summer.

- Less is more when you water. Watering too much and too often results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus. A rule of thumb: if the grass springs back when you step on it, enough water has been applied.

- Cycle and soak. The greatest waste of water in lawn and landscape comes from watering too much, too fast. Set your sprinklers to run a shorter duration for 3 or 4 cycles. This allows water to soak into the soil and minimizes runoff.
- Maintain your sprinkler system. Adjust sprinkler heads regularly and inspect your system for leaks.
- Take advantage of rebate and incentive programs offered by Centennial Water. This includes rain sensor rebates, turf replacement and a high efficiency nozzle retrofit program.
- Partner benefits. Centennial Water partners with Resource Central to provide customers access to water-saving programs, including Slow the Flow free irrigation inspections, Garden In A Box plant-by-number low-water garden kits and a lawn removal service.

For more information about water conservation and drought conditions in Highlands Ranch, visit centennialwater.org.

Centennial Water & Sanitation District is the water and wastewater utility in Highlands Ranch. Centennial Water provides high quality water through the Joseph B. Blake Water Treatment Plant located in Highlands Ranch. Wastewater is treated at the Marcy Gulch Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet stringent water quality standards before it is discharged. Since 1981, Centennial Water has built a reliable and highly-respected water portfolio, based on a conjunctive use system, to serve its customers. Its major water source is surface water from the South Platte River, supplemented with groundwater from deep aquifer wells throughout Highlands Ranch. For more information about Centennial Water & Sanitation District, which serves Highlands Ranch, please visit centennialwater.org, or call 303-791-0430.

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