

I want to address the Civic and Cultural Center Demonstration Garden approved at Council's last meeting.

Others speaking tonight will be addressing a variety of related topic's including,

- Your after-the-fact web-article rationalizing your decision to proceed without any public input.
- The true scope of work being masqueraded as a demonstration garden when the real purpose is the mitigation of reoccurring water leak in the parking structure.
- That the Public Works Department has only made an informal inquiry into potential cost of consultant design services., that complete project bids have not been sought.
- The inappropriate use of the Urban Runoff Fund' s excessive reserves to bail out the Building Maintenance Fund, the legitimate source to pay for infrastructure repair.

I am focusing on your hypothesis that the residents of Brea need to be educated, informed, convinced to conserve water, thereby reducing runoff, installing drought tolerant landscaping.

To that end I have obtained and reviewed water consumption data from your Administrative Services Department, a simple task that apparently never occurred to any of you.

Using fiscal year '06-'07 as a baseline, the year Brea' s tiered waters rates went into effect, I have gathered residential consumption data for the last seven fiscal years.

I excluded the customer categories of Commercial, Industrial, Public Agencies (which includes BOUSD, OC Parks, LL&MD and City of Brea), Irrigation ( which includes private greenbelt areas, agricultural and golf courses), and Other (which includes Fire, Temporary and Construction meters) as these categories were purposefully excluded from your target audience.

While Brea has enjoyed a modest increase in single and multiple family housing since 2006, water consumption over the last seven years was reduced each year.

This compounded conservation, though the customer base increased by 10%, resulted in a rate of water use today below the ' 06-'07 base year.

Let me repeat that for emphasis, more people are living in Brea today using less water than a smaller population used seven years ago.

This pattern of successful conservation includes modifications in landscaping and routine irrigation practices.

It is not purely the result of shorter showers, shutting off the hose while washing the family car and putting bricks into toilet tanks.

It strikes me as arrogant, uninformed and irrational that you assume you need to educate a group of people who have consistently demonstrated their willingness and ability to reduce their water use year after year.

For the record, the categories eliminated from this analysis (because you ignored them in your original thesis) have performed equally well over the same time period.

Because your original premise, pardon the pun, doesn't hold water, there is only one logical, honest course of action remaining. Rescind the irresponsible resolution you passed at your last session. Cancel the garden.

Three closing comments:

The MWDOC staff member managing the turf removal program confirmed today that he is completely unaware of Brea's intent and that no application has been made.

This afternoon, the President of Cal Domestic Water confirmed that there is no standing program for projects of this type. From a project abstract created by Eric Nicoll, the Board of Directors passed a resolution for a "contribution in concept" - the funds require additional approval once formal plans are presented.

Finally, for Mr. Markman, long a champion of ethics in government, a page from the Mayor's most recent 460 filing showing a \$250 campaign contribution from James Beyrrum, President of Cal Domestic Water Company. While this violates no state law, it reminds me of something Mr. Markman shared in an ethics session I attended years ago.

"It is not sufficient to merely conduct yourself in an ethical manner. You must act in such a way that removes any doubt."

I will provide a copy of my statement to the City Clerk. Please include it along with minutes part of the public record of this meeting.