

Calif. water use back to pre-drought levels

By Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News

California's water conservation habits, refined and improved over five years of drought, are quickly evaporating.

For the seventh time in the last eight months, the amount of water saved by urban Californians has declined, according to new data from the State Water Resources Control Board. In other words, lawn sprinklers are back on, showers are getting longer and overall, California's water use, after five years of conserving, is now back to where it was before the drought began.

"You don't want to jump to a conclusion and say the sky is falling, everybody has forgotten how to conserve," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the water board. "But having been through what we've been through, we obviously want people to stay aware and redouble our efforts."

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