



CONSERVING WATER

When was the last time it rained?

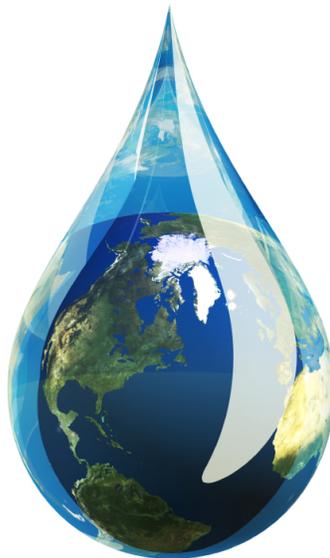
You might be surprised to read that the very first issue of the Scafile Law Firm Advisory is about conserving water. Usually this monthly newsletter will feature a change in the law, or an important case that has come down, or offer some insights into one of major practice areas to assist you as you make decisions regarding your legal strategies.

Certainly future issues will provide this service. But at the same time that Scafile Law Firm was getting started, the City of Santa Barbara, and all the local governments in the area reminded us how desperate the situation is by declaring a Stage Two drought, or worse, declaring a drought emergency.

For some, it's difficult to believe that a community like Santa Barbara can be so close to so much water in the ocean, and yet be out of water. Actually, the vast majority of the earth is covered with water, but less than one percent (1%) is suitable for drinking. Of course, it's that one percent that we are concerned about.

And while water is a renewable resource, it is not limitless. Desert agriculture, residential and economic development, and waste have created a tremendous demand on our water resources. This demand is exceeding supply because we are in the midst of a long-term drought.

Lack of rainfall and overuse have placed a tremendous burden on our fresh water supply.



What we can do.

Water conservation starts with each of us, and, through relatively easy measures, we can reduce our personal water consumption and relieve some of the pressure on our over-taxed water system.

The US Environmental Protection Agency, has provided these five simple ways to reduce your water consumption:

1. **Turn off the tap.** It sounds simple, but turn off the tap when you shave, brush your teeth, or wash dishes. Turning off the tap while you're brushing your teeth can save up to 8 gallons a day, which is more than 200 gallons a month.
2. **Shower instead of a bath.** On average, taking a shower uses between 10 and 15 gallons of water, as opposed to taking a bath, which can use as much as 70 gallons. You can use as much water in one bath as you can if you shower every day for a week.
3. **Fix a leaky toilet.** A leaking toilet can waste up to 500 gallons a day, every day. To see whether your toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If you have a leak, the color shows up in the bowl without flushing.
4. **Avoid washing the car.** If you wash your car at home, use a bucket instead of a running hose. If you go to a car wash, be sure they recycle their water.
5. **Water your plants late evening or early morning.** The heat of the day causes evaporation, and the lost water is wasted.