



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Brooke Gutierrez

Sector Superintendent

805-927-2065

Brooke.Gutierrez@parks.ca.gov

Hearst Castle Visitor Center to Close Public Restrooms in July for Water Conservation

Chemical toilets with hand sanitizer stations will be made available

On Monday July 7, 2014, the Hearst Castle Visitor Center will begin implementing water conservation measures to reduce water usage and comply with Governor Brown's [Executive Order to redouble drought actions across the State](#). All day-use restrooms will be closed and chemical toilets (or porta-potties) with exterior hand sanitizer stations will be placed at the Visitor Center. Thirty standard chemical restrooms plus eight Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible chemical restrooms will be available to accommodate all visitors. At least six hand sanitizer stations will also be available.

[The Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument](#) will continue to provide chemical restrooms to hilltop visitors, as it has done in the past several years. It is anticipated that these water conservation measures will reduce water consumption by approximately 40% - 50% in the affected areas. In March, day-use restrooms were closed in the Santa Rosa Creek, Leffingwell Landing, and Washburn day-use areas. The San Simeon Campground stopped offering showers to visitors, and site fees have been reduced to \$25 for standard tent sites to reflect the reduced services. At Hearst Castle no new annual plants are being placed in the gardens, irrigation is primarily done by hand, extensive mulch has been placed in the gardens, and vehicle washing has been eliminated. In all park facilities, water usage monitoring and frequent inspections for leaks in the plumbing systems are ongoing to allow for immediate repairs.

The San Luis Obispo Coast District will continue to work with local community service districts, water providers, state and federal partners, and neighbors in any actions related to the drought.

For more drought related information, please visit www.SaveOurWater.com.

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