



# Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HACLA Wins National Award for Water Conservation Program**

Los Angeles - The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) was recognized with an Award of Excellence by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for its Water Conservation program.

The water conservation campaign was implemented in 2007. HACLA's effort includes resident education, distribution of water saving devices, new lease rules, indoor and outdoor water audits, and reduction of water usage. The Housing Authority partnered with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Metropolitan Water District's public sector program in order to implement this comprehensive water conservation campaign. Every facet of water usage was examined from indoor to outdoor water consumption including water discharged into the sewer system.

"Collaborating with our city partners to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation has allowed this agency to save millions of gallons of water," said HACLA President and CEO, Rudolf C. Montiel. "We thank NAHRO for recognizing our efforts. This agency will continue to implement and participate in projects that help save valuable natural resources."

As part of the Housing Authority's Water Conservation Team, the Housing Authority hired summer youth workers through the city's Community Development Department's 'Hire LA's Youth' program. The team, trained by LADWP made door-to-door visits to each public housing site

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(approximately 7,000 units) educating residents on the importance and urgency of water conservation. Through newsletters and resident meetings, residents learned simple steps they can take in their daily routine to conserve water.

This year, HACLA continued the successful program expanding efforts to more public housing sites. In partnership with Honeywell, faucets and showerheads at public housing units were replaced with water efficient models. Water audits were completed at every public housing site.

HACLA continues to address areas where there is inefficient water use. Drought tolerant landscaping projects at Imperial Courts and Nickerson Gardens public housing sites were completed in the summer of 2009. Public housing residents also received information on the Mayor's water conservation ordinance, water saving tips, and a free water nozzle with automatic shut-off valve to connect to their garden hose in accordance with the new water use regulations.

To further compel residents to save water and comply with the City ordinance, the Housing Authority added new water conservation rules in its lease agreement and produced a video for viewing on the website to inform visitors about the new city water usage rules.

The HACLA will receive the award at NAHRO's national conference in Washington D.C in October.

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