

Water warnings on California highways

by UPI

SANTA ANA, Calif - Officials in Orange County, Calif., have used electronic highway signs to alert residents of a water shortage emergency.

"ORANGE COUNTY WATER EMERGENCY CONSERVE WATER," read the 35 signs usually reserved for abducted children or traffic problems, the Los Angeles Times reported.

A week-long shutdown at a water treatment plant in Yorba Linda, Calif., was behind the shortage, and less obtrusive requests to conserve water were not getting results, water district officials said.

"We had used all the traditional means to ask residents to conserve, and usage was still up," Kelly Hubbard, emergency services manager at the water district, told the Times. "Considering that most people spend a lot of time driving on the freeways, we thought this was a good way to get the message" to them.

Water warnings on California highways by UPI