

LOCH

Continued from A1

to put the plan on hold in favor of creating a public education campaign about drought risk and fish habitat obligations.

Meanwhile, city consumers have targets for cutting water use three months in a row, averaging a combined 10.7 million gallons per day in August. The city prohibited runoff and daytime irrigation from May through October, asking customers to reduce use 5 percent.

The city has issued nearly 600 violation notices this summer, most of which customers readily corrected, Goddard said. Only a few cases have resulted in penalties.

Meanwhile, now that days are getting shorter and plants require less water, Goddard encourages residents to cut back further on irrigation to keep the reservoir from dipping below 75 percent in case of a third dry year. The lower water level has exposed a number of tree stumps and other water hazards that are typically submerged, and newly exposed ground is slippery, chief ranger Scot Lang said.

"The shoreline is still very mucky, so be very careful," he said.

Boating and other recreation uses are permitted on weekends at Loch Lomond until Oct. 13, after which the area will be closed to the public until March 1.



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL PHOTOS

TOP: Kids fish along the shore of Loch Lomond Reservoir last May when the lake was at normal levels. ABOVE: The water level is the lowest in 16 years at Loch Lomond Reservoir, the main water storage for the city of Santa Cruz.

Follow Sentinel reporter J.M. Brown at [Twitter.com/jmbrown-reports](https://twitter.com/jmbrown-reports)