



DATE: May 13, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 5

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Susanna Chan, Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** Level Three Water Conservation Measures

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and comment on proposed City of Los Altos Level Three water conservation measures and implementation strategy

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### **BACKGROUND**

Due to the unprecedented draught conditions, Governor Jerry Brown implemented mandatory water reduction requirements throughout the State of California. In response to this mandate, the City of Los Altos has prepared a three level water conservation plan to meet the current 32% water reduction requirement and prepare for potential more stringent future mandates. The identified water conservation measures are aimed to meet the current reduction goal while considering the safety of athletic field users and long-term sustainability of landscape areas. The goal is to reach the required goal through a reduction in overall water consumption without having to completely eliminate water use in all service areas if possible and to only activate the more intense water reduction measures, such as completely stop watering large turf areas if necessary.

### **DISCUSSION**

The City Council will be discussing the proposed three-level approach at its May 12, 2015 meeting. The Council report is included as Attachment A for reference. Level One includes the most immediate actions the City has and will continue to take to increase water conservation. Level Two measures require capital investment. The funding request for these improvements will be considered by the City Council as part of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Capital Improvement Program. It is anticipated the implementation will take place after funds become available in July 2015. Levels One and Two measures will be monitored on a continued basis to gauge effectiveness.

Level Three outlined in the Council report call for measures that have the most significant negative impacts to the City's infrastructure and park service levels. A team of City staff from the Public Works and the Recreation Departments has developed a proposed 4-tier implementation strategy for Level Three measures. The intent is to only activate the Level Three Measures if necessary, and once activated, the measures will be implemented in an order that would minimize long-term negative impacts to park service levels.



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## AGENDA REPORT

### **Tier I** –*Implementation based on Level One and Level Two results*

- Shut off water on Foothill Expressway shoulders from Homestead to El Monte (area with various volunteer shrubs)
- Shut off water for three small islands with turf at Springer / El Monte (bubblers will be added to the existing trees)
- Shut off water for a small grass area at Rosita Park (decorative landscape area)
- Shut off water for three small islands (10' x3') with small rose bush at El Monte Rd near Santa Barbra Drive (mulch will be added as ground covers)
- Eliminate water on established junipers at Cypress Drive median
- Shut off irrigation at Hillview Community Center hallway

### **Tier II** –*Implementation based on Tier I results*

- Brown out large grass area with fruitless pear trees and one redwood tree in Montclair Triangle, install mulch and water bubblers for trees only.
- Convert Hillview social hall turf area to decomposed granite pathway

### **Tier III** –*Implementation based on Tier I and Tier II results*

- Shut off water for areas with ivy in all parks (mulch will be added as ground cover)
- Brown out all grass areas in all parks (except for actual playing fields).

### **Tier IV** – *Implementation based on results of all water reduction measures and council approval*

- Brown out all playing fields

The purpose of this memo is to give the Parks and Recreation Commission an opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the proposed 4-tier approach of implementing the Level Three water conservation measures. It is anticipated that most of the Level Three measures, particularly the Tiers III and IV measures will not be necessary to meet the current 32% water reduction goal. The intent is to have a plan in place that is embraced by the community and can be taken into effect quickly should drought condition persist and more intense water reduction measures are necessary.

This proposal will also be presented to the Environmental Commission at its May 11, 2015 meeting. Commission comments and recommendations will be presented to the City Council at a future meeting.

Attachments:

- A. City Council Water Conservation Measure Report May 12, 2015

