



DATE: May 11, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 2

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Water Conservation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and discuss water consumption and conservation efforts

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**BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Commission appointed a Subcommittee of Commissioners Eyre, Weiden and Halkola to determine methods for achieving the State's goals for reductions in water consumption. To this effort, the Subcommittee continues to: 1) review and report on water conservation efforts within Santa Clara County; 2) explore model water conservation ordinances and enforcement procedures; 3) gather water consumption data from the City of Los Altos water retailer, Cal Water; 4) formulate water consumption data to display annual and monthly usage in the Climate Action Plan Dashboard; 5) provide education and outreach efforts to residents and commercial establishments in Los Altos; 6) utilize resources from the Santa Clara County Valley Water District; 7) analyze the provisions in the current City of Los Altos Water Conservation Resolution to determine the effectiveness of water reduction efforts.

At the Environmental Commission/Council Joint Meeting on March 17, 2015, Council advised the Commission that water conservation for the City is a major priority. Council encouraged the Commission to continue its Work Plan goal and projects on water conservation and to advise Council on the actions needed to attain the State's water reduction goals.

The Subcommittee efforts continue to provide reports to the Commission that result in discussions and lead to the formulation of recommendations to Council.

In September 2014, the Subcommittee began to explore opportunities for Cal Water Service, Purissima Hills Water District, the Town of Los Altos Hills and the City of Los Altos Environmental Commission to work together on the topic of Water Innovation for a public education and outreach effort to the joint communities. The Water Innovation seminar was held on March 12, 2015. The Subcommittee gave its report about the seminar at the April 13, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting.

The Subcommittee and Staff Liaison continue to work with Cal Water and the Santa Clara Valley Water District on local efforts, and data collection and initiatives for water usage reduction and conservation. Rachael Gibson, Office of Government Relations, Santa Clara Valley Water District,

gave a presentation on water conservation efforts at the April 13, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting.

In addition, City staff attended a webinar hosted by the Office of the Governor regarding the Governor's Executive Order for water conservation and new goals set by the State for 25% reduction in water consumption. The Los Altos Water District goal for water reduction is 32%.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff met with Cal Water Service (CWS) on April 22, 2015 and received a report about the drought, water use restrictions and conservation efforts that will be implemented in the Los Altos Water District effective June 1, 2015. Staff then meet with the Water Conservation Subcommittee on April 30, 2015 and provided a briefing on these measures.

CWS will convene a community meeting on May 11, 2015 at 6 pm at Covington School, 201 Covington Road, Los Altos to present drought, water use restrictions and conservation plans for the community. The Environmental Commission meeting will convene at approximately 8:30 pm after the conclusion of the CWS community meeting. CWS website drought materials are included as Attachment A.

At the May 11, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting, Public Works Director Susanna Chan will present a report and request comment on the proposed City of Los Altos Level Three water conservation measures and implementation strategy (Attachment B).

The Water Conservation Subcommittee will present its report and discuss CWS annual data for water consumption in the Los Altos District (Attachment C).

## **Attachments**

- A. California Water Service Los Altos Service website materials on the drought and water use restrictions
- B. Level Three Water Conservation Measures
- C. Total Los Altos Consumption

# Cal Water Required to Activate Next Stage of Drought Response Plan and Implement Water Budgets

Posted on April 28, 2015

In order to achieve state-mandated water use reductions necessitated by historic drought conditions, Cal Water today filed its Schedule 14.1 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Cal Water's Schedule 14.1 provides for household and business water budgets and associated enforcement measures to reduce water use in its districts.

The filing, which applies to both residential and non-residential customers, is responsive to Governor Brown's executive order requiring a statewide 25% reduction in urban, potable water use. It also complies with subsequent regulations that are expected to be adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) and the CPUC to achieve that reduction by the end of February 2016.

Cal Water districts throughout California must achieve between an 8- to 36-percent reduction in water use, as set by the Board, from their usage during July through September 2013. District-wide savings achieved in 2014 are subtracted from the reduction requirement to determine the savings that still need to be achieved. For example, a district that needs to conserve 32 percent over 2013 but saved 12 percent in 2014 will need to save another 20 percent by next February.

Individual customers in each district will be given a water budget that reflects state-mandated reductions. The customer's monthly bill will show his or her water budget for the following month. Customers' water use history through 2013 will also be available online at [www.calwater.com](http://www.calwater.com) beginning in June.

As part of Schedule 14.1, a drought surcharge would apply when customers use above their allotted budget that month. Considerations will be given for low-income customers, those who did not use their entire budgets in previous months, and those with special circumstances.

Schedule 14.1 is expected to become effective June 1, 2015.



# Proposed Reduction Requirements

On April 18, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) issued draft regulations for complying with the Governor's executive order to reduce urban, potable water use statewide by 25%.

The Board is basing mandated water use reductions for each utility on average water usage in July, August, and September 2014. Proposed reductions are as follows (based on residential gallons per capita, per day [gpcd]):

TIER	GPCD	REDUCTION
Tier 1	Reserved	4%
Tier 2	0.00-64.99	8%
Tier 3	65.00-79.99	12%
Tier 4	80.00-94.99	16%
Tier 5	95.00-109.99	20%
Tier 6	110.00-129.99	24%
Tier 7	130.00-169.99	28%
Tier 8	170.00-214.99	32%
Tier 9	215.00-612.00	36%

These reductions would apply to Cal Water districts as follows:

DISTRICT	TIER PROPOSED REDUCTION REQUIREMENT	
Antelope Valley	9	36%
Bakersfield	8	32%
Bayshore		



These draft regulations may change after the Board receives public comment. The final version is expected to be adopted at the Board's May 5-6 meeting.

# Prohibited Uses of Water

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission on April 9 and the State Water Resources Control Board in March, Cal Water wants to ensure our customers are aware of the following prohibited uses of water:

- The application of water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;
- The use of a hose that dispenses water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
- The application of water to driveways and sidewalks;
- The use of water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
- The application of water to outdoor landscapes during and within forty-eight (48) hours after measurable rainfall;
- The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased. (If you are a restaurant operator and would like table tents to explain this restriction, please [contact Cal Water's Conservation Department](#).)

In addition, operators of hotels and motels are required to provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and to prominently display notice of this option in each guest room using clear and easily understood language. (If you are a hotel or motel operator and would like assistance with signage, please [contact Cal Water's Conservation Department](#).)

In the near future, we will notify our customers directly of these restrictions, plus limitations that must be placed on the number of days per week that they will be able to irrigate or water ornamental landscapes and turf.

Violation of any of these prohibited or restricted water uses may be punished by a fine of up to \$500 for each day the violation occurs. If you happen to see someone wasting water, we want to know about it so that we can work with them to use water wisely. [Fill out a Waste of Water](#)

# Report Water Waste

**District where waste was observed \***

Select your district ▼

**ZIP Code where waste was observed**

**What water waste did you observe (check all that apply)? \***

- ☐ Use of excessive water due to unrepaired leaks or defective irrigation systems
- ☐ Use of a garden hose without a shut-off nozzle to wash vehicles
- ☐ Use of water that results in flooding or run-off into gutters or streets
- ☐ Use of water for washing driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas
- ☐ Use of water for filling or refilling decorative lakes or ponds
- ☐ Use of water for decorative fountains that do not utilize a recirculation system, such as an electric pump
- ☐ Use of water for filling or refilling swimming pools
- ☐ Other

**Where did you see the water waste occur? Please be as specific as possible (e.g. provide address, cross streets, description of property, etc.) \***

**Most recent date you saw the water waste (approximate, if necessary) \***

05/05/2015

**Approximate time you most recently saw the water**

0 ▼ : 00 ▼ a.m ▼



# Drought Resources

## Important information

- [Prohibited Uses of Water](#)
- [Proposed Reduction Requirements](#) (updated April 20, 2015)
- [Proposed Schedule 14.1](#): Cal Water's proposed Water Shortage Contingency Plan with Mandatory Reductions and Drought Surcharges, which is expected to go into effect on June 1, 2015.
- [Drought Meeting Information](#)

## The latest news

- [Cal Water Required to Activate Next Stage of Drought Response Plan and Implement Water Budgets](#) (April 28, 2015)
- [State Water Resources Control Board issues draft framework](#) (April 8, 2015)
- [Governor issues executive order on drought](#) (April 1, 2015)
- [State Water Resources Control Board approves emergency water use regulations](#) (July 16, 2014)
- [State Water Resources Control Board approves emergency regulations](#) (July 15, 2014)
- [City of Livermore enacts water use restrictions](#) (May 15, 2014)
- [Districts are prepared to meet customer demand despite drought emergency](#) (January 17, 2014)

## To help conserve water

- [Conservation rebates and programs](#): A variety of conservation rebates and programs are available in most water systems.
- [Conservation kits](#): Single-family residential customers can get conservation kits featuring a range of water-saving plumbing retrofit fixtures.
- [Conservation tips](#): Changes big and small you can use to save water.

# Water Conservation Reports

Cal Water is committed to supporting our customers' conservation efforts as part of our plan to provide a reliable water supply for today and tomorrow. Select a report from the list below.

<b>Antelope Valley</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Bayshore</b>			
Mid-Peninsula	2013	2012	2011
South San Francisco	2013	2012	2011
<b>Bakersfield</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Bear Gulch</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Chico</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Dixon</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>East Los Angeles</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Kern River Valley</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>King City</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Livermore</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Los Altos</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Marysville</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Oroville</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Rancho Dominguez</b>			
Dominguez	2013	2012	2011
Hermosa Redondo	2013	2012	2011
Palos Verdes	2013	2012	2011
<b>Redwood Valley</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Salinas</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Selma</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Westlake</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Willows</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>

# Rebates and Programs

Select your district (and, in some cases, your water system) to see a list of conservation rebates and programs currently available to you. If you do not know your district and water system, visit the [Find My District page](#).

Service Type \* Residential ▼

District \* Los Altos ▼

## High-efficiency toilet rebate

Available from: [SCVWD](#)

High-efficiency toilets use a maximum of 1.28 gallons of water per flush (gpf), whereas an old toilet may use up to 7 gpf.

## High-efficiency clothes washer rebate

Available from: [SCVWD](#)

High-efficiency clothes washers use 35-50% less water and approximately 50% less energy than traditional washers. See the rebate application for additional restrictions and qualifications.

## Landscape Rebate Program

Available from: [SCVWD](#)

The Landscape Rebate Program provides rebates for home owners that increase their outdoor water use efficiency by replacing high water use landscape and/or upgrading to high efficiency irrigation equipment. This new program is a result of combining and streamlining several landscape rebate programs into one program in order to increase program effectiveness. To qualify sites must participate in a pre-inspection prior to beginning their project or purchasing materials that they would



# Conservation Kits

We are pleased to offer our single-family residential customers conservation kits featuring a range of water-saving plumbing retrofit fixtures. These kits are available at no charge to help make conserving water that much easier.

Each kit includes:

- Two high-efficiency showerheads (use 2 gallons per minute [gpm])
- One hose nozzle
- Two bathroom faucet aerators (use 1.0 gpm)
- Toilet leak tablets
- One kitchen faucet aerator (uses 1.5 gpm)

These fixtures are available to current Cal Water single-family residential customers while supplies last, and will be mailed to the service address on record. There is a limit of one kit per service address per three-year period.

**To receive your kit, fill out the form below.**

Account  
Number \*

Zip Code \*



Type the text

[Privacy & Terms](#)



Continue

# Conservation Tips

There are many areas where you can save water. Click the one you're interested in:

- [Your home](#)
- [Your yard](#)
- [Your garden](#)
- [Your apartment building](#)
- [Your school](#)

**Schedule No. 14.1**  
**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

( N )

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES**

Page 1

**A. APPLICABILITY**

1. This schedule applies to all of California Water Service's regulated ratemaking areas in California, as well as Grand Oaks Water.

**B. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. All expenses incurred by utility to implement Rule 14.1, and Schedule 14.1, and requirements of the California State Water Resources Control Board ("Water Board") that have not been considered in a General Rate Case or other proceeding shall be accumulated by Cal Water in a separate memorandum account, authorized in Resolution W-4976, for disposition as directed or authorized from time to time by the Commission.
2. All monies collected by Cal Water through waste of water penalties established in this schedule shall be recorded in the appropriate memorandum account and used to offset the expenses described in Section 1 above.
3. All monies collected by Cal Water through drought surcharges, as established by the Mandatory Water Budgets found in Schedule 14.1, shall be recorded in the appropriate Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("WRAM") account and used to offset under-collected revenues.
4. To the extent that any provision in this Schedule is inconsistent with Rule 14.1, the provisions of this Schedule apply.
5. A customer may request installation of a real-time water measurement device on the customer's service line. The cost of the device, including installation and ongoing operating costs, shall be billed to the customer, and nonpayment may result in discontinuance of service.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Schedule, the following terms have the meanings set forth in this section.  
(These are the same as in Rule 14.1, unless otherwise specified.)

1. "Commercial nursery" means the use of land, buildings or structures for the growing and/or storing of flowers, fruit trees, ornamental trees, vegetable plants, shrubs, trees and similar vegetation for the purpose of transplanting, for use as stock or grafting, and includes the retail sale or wholesale distribution of such items directly from the premises/lot.
2. "Drip irrigation system" means a non-spray, low-pressure, and low volume irrigation system utilizing emission devices with a precipitation or flow rate measured in gallons per hour (GPH), designed to slowly apply small volumes of water at or near the root zone of plants or other landscaping.
3. "Flow rate" means the rate at which water flows through pipes, valves, and emission devices, measured in gallons per minute (GPM), gallons per hour (GPH), inches per hour (IPH), hundred cubic feet (Ccf), or cubic feet per second (CFS).
4. "Flow-restricting device" means valves, orifices, or other devices that reduce the flow of potable water through a service line, which are capable of passing a minimum of 3 Ccf per person, per month, based upon the U.S. Census calculation of the average number of people in a household in the area.
5. "High-efficiency sprinkler systems" means an irrigation system with emission devices, such as sprinkler heads or nozzles, with a precipitation or flow rate no greater than one IPH.
6. "Irrigation" means the application of potable water by artificial means to landscape.
7. "Irrigation system" means the components of a system meant to apply water to an area for the purpose of irrigation, including, but not limited to, piping, fittings, sprinkler heads or nozzles, drip tubing, valves, and control wiring.

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(To be inserted by utility)  
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**Vice President**  
TITLE

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Schedule No. 14.1

(N)

**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 2

**C. DEFINITIONS (Continued)**

8. "Landscape" means all of the outdoor planting areas, turf areas, and water features at a particular location.
9. "Measureable rainfall" means any amount of precipitation of more than one-tenth of an inch (0.1").
10. "Micro spray irrigation system" means a low-pressure, low-volume irrigation system utilizing emission devices that spray, mist, sprinkle, or drip with a precipitation or flow rate measured in GPH, designed to slowly apply small volumes of water to a specific area.
11. "Ornamental landscape" means shrubs, bushes, flowers, ground cover, turf, lawns, and grass planted for the purpose of improving the aesthetic appearance of property, but does not include crops or other agricultural products or special landscape areas.
12. "Plumbing fixture" means a receptacle or device that is connected to a water supply system, including, but not limited to, pipes, toilets, urinals, showerheads, faucets, washing machines, water heaters, tubs, and dishwashers.
13. "Potable water" means water supplied by Cal Water which conforms to the federal and state standards for human consumption.
14. "Properly programmed" means a smart irrigation controller that has been programmed according to the manufacturer's instructions and site-specific conditions.
15. "Real-time water measurement device" means a device or system that provides regularly updated electronic information regarding the customer's water use.
16. "Runoff" means water which is not absorbed by the soil or landscape to which it is applied and flows from the landscape onto other areas.
17. "Smart irrigation controller" means an automatic device used to remotely control valves that operate an irrigation system that has been tested by an American National Standards Institute accredited third-party certifying body or laboratory in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program (or an analogous successor program), and certified by such body or laboratory as meeting the performance and efficiency requirements of such program, or the more stringent performance and efficiency requirements of another similar program.
18. "Special landscape area" means an area of the landscape dedicated solely to edible plants and areas dedicated to active play such as parks, sports fields, golf courses, and where turf provides a playing surface.
19. "Turf" means a ground cover surface of grass that can be mowed.
20. "Water feature" means a design element where open, artificially supplied water performs an aesthetic or recreation feature, including, but not limited to, ponds, lakes, waterfalls, fountains, and streams.
21. "Water use evaluation" means an evaluation of the efficiency of indoor water-using devices, including, but not limited to, measurement of flow rates for all existing showerheads, faucets, and toilets, inspection for leaks, and providing written recommendations to improve the efficiency of the indoor water-using fixtures and devices and/or an evaluation of the performance of an irrigation system, including, but not limited to, inspection for leaks, reporting of overspray or runoff, and providing written recommendations to improve the performance of the irrigation system.

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

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**D. WASTE OF WATER PENALTIES**

Each Stage of this Schedule establishes certain restrictions on the use of potable water. Violating the restrictions set forth in a particular Stage while it is in effect is declared a non-essential, wasteful use of potable water. Cal Water is authorized to take the following actions when its personnel verify a customer is using potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses. No person shall have any right or claim in law or in equity, against Cal Water because of, or as a result of, any matter or thing done or threatened to be done pursuant to the restrictions on using potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses.

Note: When a Stage in this Schedule has been activated, Section D in this Schedule supersedes Section D (Enforcement) in Rule 14.1.

1. **FIRST VIOLATION:** Cal Water shall provide the customer with a written notice of violation. In addition, Cal Water is authorized to take the following actions:
  - A. If the customer currently receives service through a metered connection, install a real-time water measurement device on the customer's service line and provide the customer with access to information from the device. The cost of the device, including installation and ongoing operating costs, shall be billed to the customer, and nonpayment may result in discontinuance of service.
  - B. If the customer does not currently receive service through a metered connection, install a water meter on the customer's service line, charge the customer for water use pursuant to Cal Water's metered service tariffs and rules, and install a real-time water measurement device on the customer's service line and provide the customer with access to information from the device. The cost of the device, including installation and ongoing operating costs, shall be billed to the customer, and nonpayment may result in discontinuance of service.
2. **SECOND VIOLATION:** If Cal Water verifies that the customer has used potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses after having been notified of the first violation, Cal Water shall provide the customer with a second written notice of violation. In addition to the actions prescribed under the first violation above, Cal Water is authorized to take the following actions:
  - A. Apply the following waste of water penalties, which are in addition to any other charges authorized by this Schedule or other Cal Water tariffs.
    - i. If Stage 1 is in effect, \$25 (Stage 1 is detailed below in Section E).
    - ii. If Stage 2 is in effect, \$50 (Stage 2 is detailed below in Section F).
    - iii. If Stage 3 is in effect, \$100 (Stage 3 is detailed below in Section G).
    - iv. If Stage 4 is in effect, \$200 (Stage 4 is detailed below in Section H).
  - B. At its sole discretion, waive the waste of water penalty if the customer participates in a water use evaluation provided by Cal Water and/or provides documentation to Cal Water proving that a drip irrigation system, micro spray irrigation system, high-efficiency sprinkler system, or properly programmed smart irrigation controller has been installed, after a notice of violation was delivered, and is in use at the customer's service address.

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Schedule No. 14.1

( N )

**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 4

**D. WASTE OF WATER PENALTIES (Continued)**

3. **THIRD VIOLATION:** If Cal Water verifies that the customer has used potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses after having been notified of the second violation, Cal Water shall provide the customer with a third written notice of violation. In addition to the actions prescribed under the first and second violations above, Cal Water is authorized to take the following actions:
- A. Apply the following waste of water penalties, which are in addition to any other charges authorized by this Schedule or other Cal Water tariffs.
    - i. If Stage 1 is in effect, \$50 (Stage 1 is detailed below in Section E).
    - ii. If Stage 2 is in effect, \$100 (Stage 2 is detailed below in Section F).
    - iii. If Stage 3 is in effect, \$200 (Stage 3 is detailed below in Section G).
    - iv. If Stage 4 is in effect, \$400 (Stage 4 is detailed below in Section H).
  - B. At its sole discretion, waive the waste of water surcharge if the customer participates in a water use evaluation provided by Cal Water and/or provides documentation to Cal Water proving that a drip irrigation system, micro spray irrigation system, high-efficiency sprinkler system, or properly programmed smart irrigation controller has been installed, after notice of violations have been delivered, and is in use at the customer's service address.
4. **FOURTH VIOLATION:** If Cal Water verifies that the customer has used potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses after having been notified of the third violation, Cal Water shall provide the customer with a fourth written notice of violation. In addition to actions set forth in previous violations prescribed above, Cal Water is authorized to install a flow-restricting device on the customer's service line. Cal Water shall not be held liable for any injuries, damages, and/or consequences arising from the installation of a flow restricting device.
5. **EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS:** Notwithstanding the foregoing framework for penalties, customers who Cal Water has verified are egregiously using potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses are subject to having a flow-restricting device installed on their service line. After providing the customer with one notice of egregious violation, either by direct mail or door hanger, which documents the egregious use of potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses and explains that failure to correct the violation may result in the installation of a flow-restricting device on the customer's service line, Cal Water is authorized to install a flow-restricting device on the customer's service line. Cal Water shall not be held liable for any injuries, damages, and/or consequences arising from the installation of a flow restricting device.
6. **NOTICES OF VIOLATION:**
- A. Unless otherwise specified, written notices of violation provided to customers pursuant to this Schedule shall document the verified violation and alert the customer to the fact that future violations of the restricted uses of potable water may result in a real-time water management device being installed on the customer's service line at the customers expense, waste of water surcharges being applied to the customer's bill, the installation of a flow-restricting device on the customer's service line, or the discontinuation of the customer's service.

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

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**D. WASTE OF WATER PENALTIES (Continued)**

B. If Cal Water elects to install a flow-restricting device on a customer's service line, the written notice of violation shall also explain that a flow-restricting device has or will be installed on the customer's service line, shall document the steps the customer must take in order for the flow-restricting device to be removed, and shall explain that after the flow-restricting device is removed, it may be reinstalled, without further notice, if the customer is again verified by Cal Water to be using potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses.

7. **FLOW RESTRICTING DEVICE CONDITIONS:** The installation of a flow-restricting device on a customer's service line is subject to the following conditions:

- A. The device shall be capable of providing the premise with a minimum of 3 Ccf per person, per month, based upon the U.S. Census calculation of the average number of people in a household in the area.
- B. The device may only be removed by Cal Water, and only after a minimum three-day period has elapsed.
- C. Any tampering with the device may result in the discontinuation of the customer's water service and the customer being charged for any damage to Cal Water's equipment or facilities and any required service visits.
- D. After the removal of the device, if Cal Water verifies that the customer is using potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses, Cal Water may install another flow-restricting device without prior notice. This device shall remain in place until water supply conditions warrant its removal. If, despite the installation of the device, Cal Water verifies that the customer is using potable water for non-essential and, unauthorized wasteful uses, then Cal Water may discontinue the customer's water service, as provided in its Rule No. 11.

8. **FLOW-RESTRICTING DEVICE REMOVAL CHARGES:** The charge to customers for removal of a flow-restricting device installed pursuant to this Schedule is \$100 during normal business hours, and \$150 for the device to be removed outside of normal business hours.

**E. STAGE ONE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS**

**1. WASTEFUL USES OF WATER**

The following restrictions may be imposed by Cal Water, except where necessary to address an immediate health or safety need, or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency:

A. Outdoor Irrigation Restrictions (Stage 1)

- i. Irrigating ornamental landscapes with potable water is limited to no more than **three (3) days** per week, on a schedule established and posted by Cal Water on its website or otherwise provided to customers by bill message, bill insert, direct mail, or email, or as follows:

(N)

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Advice Letter No. 2166

PAUL G. TOWNSLEY

Date Filed

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Vice President  
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Schedule No. 14.1

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 6

**E. STAGE ONE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (Continued)**

1. Customers with even-numbered addresses may irrigate on Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
  2. Customers with odd-numbered addresses may irrigate on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
  3. Customers without a street address may irrigate on Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
  4. Notwithstanding the foregoing restrictions, irrigation of special landscape areas or commercial nurseries may occur as needed, provided that the customer who wishes to irrigate a special landscape area or commercial nursery presents Cal Water with a plan to achieve water use reductions commensurate with those that would be achieved by complying with foregoing restrictions.
  5. Notwithstanding the foregoing restrictions, when a city, county, or other local public agency in one of Cal Water's service areas duly adopts restrictions on the number of days or hours of the day that customers may irrigate that are different than those adopted by Cal Water, Cal Water may enforce the city, county, or other local public agency's restrictions.
- II. Irrigating ornamental landscape with potable water is prohibited during the hours between **8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**
- III. The foregoing restrictions do **not** apply to:
1. Landscape irrigation zones that exclusively use drip irrigation systems and/or micro spray irrigation system;
  2. Irrigating ornamental landscapes with the use of a hand-held bucket or similar container, with a continuously monitored hose which is fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use or monitored, or for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing an irrigation system.
- B. Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions: All leaks, breaks, or other malfunctions in the customer's plumbing fixtures and/or irrigation system must be repaired within **five (5) business days** of written notification by Cal Water, unless other arrangements are made with Cal Water.
- C. Prohibited Uses of Water: Customers are prohibited from using potable water for the following actions:
- i. The application of potable water to landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 7

**E. STAGE ONE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (Continued)**

- ii. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses, boats, aircraft, and trailers, whether motorized or not, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
  - iii. The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
  - iv. The use of potable water in a water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
  - v. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within forty-eight (48) hours after measurable rainfall (see Definitions);
  - vi. The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased;
  - vii. Irrigation of ornamental landscape on public street medians with potable water;
  - viii. Irrigation outside of newly constructed homes and buildings with potable water unless the potable water is delivered by a drip irrigation systems and/or micro spray irrigation system.
- D. Operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guest room using clear and easily understood language.
- E. Limits on Filling Single-Family Residential Swimming Pools and Spas: Re-filling and initial filling of single-family residential swimming pools or outdoor spas with potable water is prohibited, except to maintain required operating levels of existing pools and spas or as a result of completing structural repairs to the swimming pool or outdoor spa.
- F. Limits on Filling Ornamental Lakes or Ponds: Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds with potable water is prohibited, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to the implementation of any staged mandatory restrictions of water use as described in this Schedule.
- G. Other duly adopted restrictions on the use of potable water as prescribed from time to time by the Commission or other authorized government agencies are incorporated herein by reference.

( N )

**F. STAGE TWO WATER USE RESTRICTIONS**

**1. MANDATORY WATER BUDGETS AND BANKING (STAGE 2)**

Water budgets will be based on a customer's consumption during a historical base period and will include a percentage reduction designed to meet necessary water-use reductions. Cal Water may include provisions such as minimum water budgets for residential metered service to protect the health and safety of customers, and water banking allowing customers additional flexibility with regard to their required reductions.

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( N )

**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 8

**F. STAGE TWO WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (Continued)**

In addition to the normal rate paid for the unit of water, a drought surcharge will be charged to a customer for each unit of water used over the established water budget for the billing period.

**See Appendix A:** Details on minimum water budgets, as well as the drought surcharges that will be applied for exceeding a water budget, are provided in Appendix A. Cal Water retains the right to increase the surcharges if there are changes to the rates in the future.

Cal Water will establish an appeals process for customers that will allow for requests for increased water budgets.

**2. WASTEFUL USES OF WATER (STAGE 2)**

Cal Water may continue to impose the restrictions on the wasteful use of water as outlined in Stage One, except where necessary to address an immediate health or safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency.

**G. STAGE THREE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS**

**1. MANDATORY WATER BUDGETS AND BANKING (STAGE 3)**

Water budgets will be based on a customer's consumption during a historical base period and will include a percentage reduction designed to meet necessary water-use reductions. Cal Water may include provisions such as minimum water budgets to protect the health and safety of customers, and water banking allowing customers additional flexibility with regard to their required reductions.

In addition to the normal rate paid for the unit of water, a drought surcharge will be charged to a customer for each unit of water used over the established water budget for the billing period.

Cal Water may implement surcharges up to three (3) times those charged in Stage 2.

Cal Water will establish an appeals process for customers that will allow for requests for increased water budgets.

**2. WASTEFUL USES OF WATER (STAGE 3)**

The following restrictions may be imposed by Cal Water, except where necessary to address an immediate health or safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency. Differences from or additions to previous Stages are underlined. (The following restrictions are the same as those provided in Stage 3 of Rule 14.1.)

**a. Outdoor Irrigation Restrictions (Stage 3)**

- i. Irrigating ornamental landscapes with potable water is limited to no more than **two (2) days** per week, on a schedule established and posted by Cal Water on its website or otherwise provided to customers by bill message, bill insert, direct mail, or email, or as follows:

1. Customers with even-numbered addresses may irrigate on Saturdays and Tuesdays (previous Stages allowed Thursdays as well).
2. Customers with odd-numbered addresses may irrigate on Sundays and Wednesdays (previous Stages allowed Fridays as well).
3. Customers without a street address may irrigate on Saturdays and Tuesdays (previous Stages allowed Thursdays as well).

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Schedule No. 14.1

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

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**G. STAGE THREE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (Continued)**

4. Notwithstanding the foregoing restrictions, irrigation of special landscape areas or commercial nurseries may occur as needed, provided that the customer who wishes to irrigate a special landscape area or commercial nursery presents Cal Water with a plan to achieve water use reductions commensurate with those that would be achieved by complying with foregoing restrictions.
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing restrictions, when a city, county, or other local public agency in one of Cal Water's service areas duly adopts restrictions on the number of days or hours of the day that customers may irrigate which are different than those adopted by Cal Water, Cal Water may enforce the city, county, or other local public agency's restrictions.
- ii. Irrigating ornamental landscape with potable water is prohibited during the hours between **8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**
- iii. The foregoing restrictions do **not** apply to:
  1. Landscape irrigation zones that exclusively use drip irrigation systems and/or micro spray irrigation system;
  2. Irrigating ornamental landscapes with the use of a hand-held bucket or similar container, a continuously monitored hose which is fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use or monitored, or for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing an irrigation system.
- b. Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions: All leaks, breaks, or other malfunctions in the customer's plumbing fixtures and/or irrigation system must be repaired within **two (2) business days** of written notification by Cal Water, unless other arrangements are made with Cal Water.
- c. Prohibited Uses of Water: Customers are prohibited from using potable water for the following actions:
  - i. The application of potable water to landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures (note: this provision appears under Section E in Rule 14.1);
  - ii. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses, boats, aircraft, and trailers, whether motorized or not, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use (note: this provision appears under Section E in Rule 14.1).
  - iii. The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
  - iv. The use of potable water in a water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
  - v. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within forty-eight (48) hours after measurable rainfall;
  - vi. The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased;
  - vii. Irrigation of ornamental landscape on public street medians with potable water;

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 10

**G. STAGE THREE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (Continued)**

- viii. Irrigation outside of newly constructed homes and buildings with potable water unless the potable water is delivered by a drip irrigation systems and/or micro spray irrigation system;
- ix. Use of potable water for street cleaning with trucks, except for initial wash-down for construction purposes (if street sweeping is not feasible);
- x. Use of potable water for construction purposes, such as consolidation of backfill, dust control, or other uses unless no other source of water or other method can be used.
- d. Operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guest room using clear and easily understood language.
- e. Limits on Filling Residential Swimming Pools and Spas: Re-filling and initial filling of single-family residential swimming pools or outdoor spas with potable water is prohibited (previous Stages allowed certain exceptions).
- f. Limits on Filling Ornamental Lakes or Ponds: Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds with potable water is prohibited, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to the implementation of any staged mandatory restrictions of water use as described in this Schedule.
- g. Other duly adopted restrictions on the use of potable water as prescribed from time to time by the Commission or other authorized government agencies are incorporated herein by reference.

**H. STAGE FOUR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS**

**1. MANDATORY WATER BUDGETS AND BANKING (STAGE 4)**

Water budgets will be based on a customer's consumption during a historical base period and will include a percentage reduction designed to meet necessary water-use reductions. Cal Water may include provisions such as minimum water budgets to protect the health and safety of customers, and water banking allowing customers additional flexibility with regard to their required reductions.

In addition to the normal rate paid for the unit of water, a drought surcharge will be charged to a customer for each unit of water used over the established water budget for the billing period. For Stage 4, Cal Water may implement surcharges up to three (3) times those charged in Stage 2. Cal Water may require customer consumption reductions of up to 50%.

Cal Water will establish an appeals process for customers that will allow for requests for increased water budgets.

**2. WASTEFUL USES OF WATER (STAGE 4)**

The following restrictions may be imposed by Cal Water, except where necessary to address an immediate health or safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency. Differences from or additions to previous Stages are underlined. (The following restrictions are the same as those provided in Stage 4 of Rule 14.1.)

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Schedule No. 14.1

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

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**G. STAGE FOUR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (Continued)**

- A. Irrigating ornamental landscape with potable water is prohibited, except when a hand-held bucket or a similar container, or a continuously monitored hose which is fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use or monitored is used to maintain vegetation, including trees and shrubs.
- B. Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions: All leaks, breaks, or other malfunctions in the customer's plumbing fixtures or irrigation system must be repaired within **one (1) business day** of written notification by Cal Water, unless other arrangements are made with Cal Water.
- C. Prohibited Uses of Water: Customers are prohibited from using potable water for the following actions:
- i. The application of potable water to landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;
  - ii. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses, boats, aircraft, and trailers, whether motorized or not, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
  - iii. The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
  - iv. The use of potable water in a water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
  - v. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within forty-eight (48) hours after measurable rainfall;
  - vi. The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased;  
Note that items previously identified as (ix) and (x) in Stage 3 have been eliminated.
  - vii. Use of potable water for street cleaning with trucks (previous Stage allowed certain exceptions);
  - viii. Use of potable water for construction purposes, such as consolidation of backfill, dust control, or other uses (previous Stage allowed certain exceptions).
- d. Operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guest room using clear and easily understood language.
- e. Limits on Filling Residential Swimming Pools and Spas: Re-filling and initial filling of single-family residential swimming pools or outdoor spas with potable water is prohibited.
- f. Limits on Filling Ornamental Lakes or Ponds: Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds with potable water is prohibited, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to the implementation of any staged mandatory restrictions of water use as described in this Schedule.
- g. Other duly adopted restrictions on the use of potable water as prescribed from time to time by the Commission or other authorized government agencies are incorporated herein by reference.

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Schedule No. 14.1

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**WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WITH STAGED MANDATORY REDUCTIONS AND DROUGHT SURCHARGES (continued)**

Page 12

**APPENDIX A**

Stage 2 – Drought Surcharges for Exceeding Water Budget, and Minimum Water Budgets					
District	Tariff Area	Drought Surcharge Non-LIRA Customers (a)	Drought Surcharge LIRA Customers (b)	Minimum Water Budget (Ccf) (c)	Rate Support Fund (RSF) Areas
Antelope Valley	Fremont Valley & Lake Hughes	\$4.5200	\$2.2600	5	RSF Area
	Lancaster	\$7.1180	\$3.5590	5	
	Leona Valley	\$4.5200	\$2.2600	5	RSF Area
Bakersfield		\$4.1868	\$2.0934	7	
Bayshore	Mid-Peninsula	\$10.0000	\$5.0000	6	
	South San Francisco	\$5.6492	\$2.8246	6	
Bear Gulch		\$10.0000	\$5.0000	6	
Chico		\$3.1314	\$1.5657	6	
Dixon		\$7.9402	\$3.9701	7	
Dominguez		\$6.9934	\$3.4967	7	
East Los Angeles		\$3.7605	\$1.8803	9	
Grand Oaks		\$2.1236	\$1.0618	5	
Hermosa Redondo		\$9.1586	\$4.5793	5	
Kern River Valley		\$4.5200	\$2.2600	4	RSF Area
King City		\$6.7536	\$3.3768	9	
Livermore		\$7.6194	\$3.8097	6	
Los Altos		\$8.1608	\$4.0804	6	
Marysville		\$5.1470	\$2.5735	6	
Oroville		\$6.1840	\$3.0920	6	
Palos Verdes		\$9.5358	\$4.7679	6	
Redwood Valley		\$4.5200	\$2.2600	4	RSF Area
Salinas		\$5.7776	\$2.8888	7	
Selma		\$3.0122	\$1.5061	8	
Stockton		\$5.5506	\$2.7753	7	
Visalia		\$2.9796	\$1.4898	7	
Westlake		\$9.2378	\$4.6189	6	
Willows		\$4.1356	\$2.0678	6	

(a) - The Drought Surcharge is equal to two (2) times the highest residential tier rate with a \$10.00 maximum EXCEPT for:

The Drought Surcharge in Rate Support Fund (RSF) areas is equal to \$4.52.

The Drought Surcharge for districts with a 10% or less water reduction requirement is equal to the highest residential tier rate.

(b) - The Drought Surcharge for LIRA customers is 50% of the Drought Surcharge for Non-LIRA customers.

(c) - The Minimum Water Budget is set at 55 gpcd (gallons per capita per day) multiplied by the people per household for the area in the U.S. Census.

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DATE: May 11, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 2

**TO:** Environmental 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

---

## **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.

**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 Environmental 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 Parks and Recreation Commission at its May 13, 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



**CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 12, 2015**

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Agenda Item # 18**

**SUBJECT:** Receive an update on City of Los Altos agency water conservation efforts

---

**BACKGROUND**

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued an executive order mandating substantial water restrictions across the state of California. For the first time in state history, the Governor has directed the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns across California in order to reduce state-wide water usage by 25%. Although California Water Service Company (Cal Water) – which provides water to the City of Los Altos among other municipalities – is a privately owned business, the Governor has requested such agencies to follow the same guidelines set forth for the State Water Control Board.

The State has created water conservation targets, tiers and goals for all urban water suppliers in order to meet the state-wide 25% conservation standard. Cal Water includes the City of Los Altos in a district along with parts of the cities of Cupertino and Mountain View, the Town of Los Altos Hills and unincorporated Santa Clara County. Per the state standards, the City of Los Altos, along with the entire district, is required to reduce water usage by 32% based on 2013 usage reports.

**EXISTING POLICY**

Resolution No. 2014-23 Water Conservation Measures

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

June 23, 2009 and June 24, 2014

**DISCUSSION**

The City of Los Altos has over 80 service connections with Cal Water to provide water services to civic facilities such as Hillview Community Center, City Hall, and Police Station, all the parks and play fields, and landscape medians throughout the City. The City agency water usage represents approximately 1.6% of the overall water usage of the City of Los Altos.

In order to achieve the 32% water reduction goal, the City has created a three-level approach to water conservation. The identified water conservation measures are aimed to meet the 32% reduction goal while considering the safety of athletic field users and long-term sustainability of landscape areas. Los Altos is fortunate to have many mature landscape areas that are capable of surviving with minimal irrigation applications.

The three levels begin with the most immediate action the City has and will continue to take to increase conservation. Measures included in Level One can be accomplished with little or no cost to the City. Levels Two and Three will require further consideration and capital investment before implementation.



### **Level One**

- Across-the-board reductions in the frequency and duration of watering of all publicly-owned landscaped surfaces including parks, fields and roadway medians. Watering frequency will be reduced from 3-5 days per week to 2 days per week while the watering duration will be reduced from 45 minutes to 15 to 25 minutes for the fields and from 5 minutes to 2 to 3 minutes for trees and shrubs.
- Adjust sprinkler range and coverage to ensure no runoff occurs.
- Monitor rainfall events and shut down watering of major fields during and immediately after rain events.
- Reduce watering of the Civic Center Orchard by approximately 75%.
- Discontinue use of water features at Grant Park and Marymeade Park.
- Test new technology, such as bio char, an organic soil amendment that is intended to improve water holding capacity, plant quality and landscape resilience.
- Implemented several water saving measures at all City-owned facilities including:
  - Installation of faucet aerators which dispense only 0.5 gallons per minute rather than the regular 2 gallons per minute
  - Restroom flush valves are receiving water saving flush kits
  - Prioritizing reports of water leaks so they are fixed expeditiously

### **Level Two**

- Public Works will continue to install drip-irrigation where appropriate. Funding for this water savings measure will be requested as part of a new Capital Improvement Program Project for Fiscal Year 2015/16. It is anticipated the implementation will take place after funds become available in July 2015.

### **Level Three**

- The City has formed an internal team comprised of staff from Public Works and Recreation & Community Services that will review water usage and potential for additional water saving measures. The team will then form recommendations that will be presented to the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission in May. If approved by the Commissions, the recommendations will then be brought to the City Council in June 2015.
- The team will also consider the effect and impact of the browning-out of ornamental turf such as green medians and non-athletic field and park areas.

It is anticipated that Cal Water will assign certain water allocation for all City accounts. The City's water usage has to be below the allocation. The City will work closely with Cal Water to monitor our water conservation progress by reviewing water bills for all City accounts on a monthly basis. Information gathered from ongoing monitoring will be used to gauge the effectiveness of the water conservation measures already implemented. It will also be used to inform future decision-making, such as implementation timelines for the more intense water reduction measures.



It is important to share what the City is doing to reduce water consumption with the community. The City will rely on the following measures to help get the word out about water conservation and provide update on our progress:

- City website
- City e-News and Announcements
- City social media channels
- City cable access channel KMVT
- Press releases
- Communications with community, business and school groups
- Flyers that can be posted and distributed
- Signs and banners that can be placed in parks and other public spaces
- The City will explore the possibility of partnering with CalWater to host an information table at the Los Altos Arts & Wine festival in July 2015

#### **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Posting of the meeting agenda serves as notice to the general public.

#### **FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT**

Implementation of Level One water conservation will have little or no cost to the City. Levels two and three may require capital investment. Staff is in the process of evaluating the potential costs and will present recommendations to City Council as appropriate.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Not applicable

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

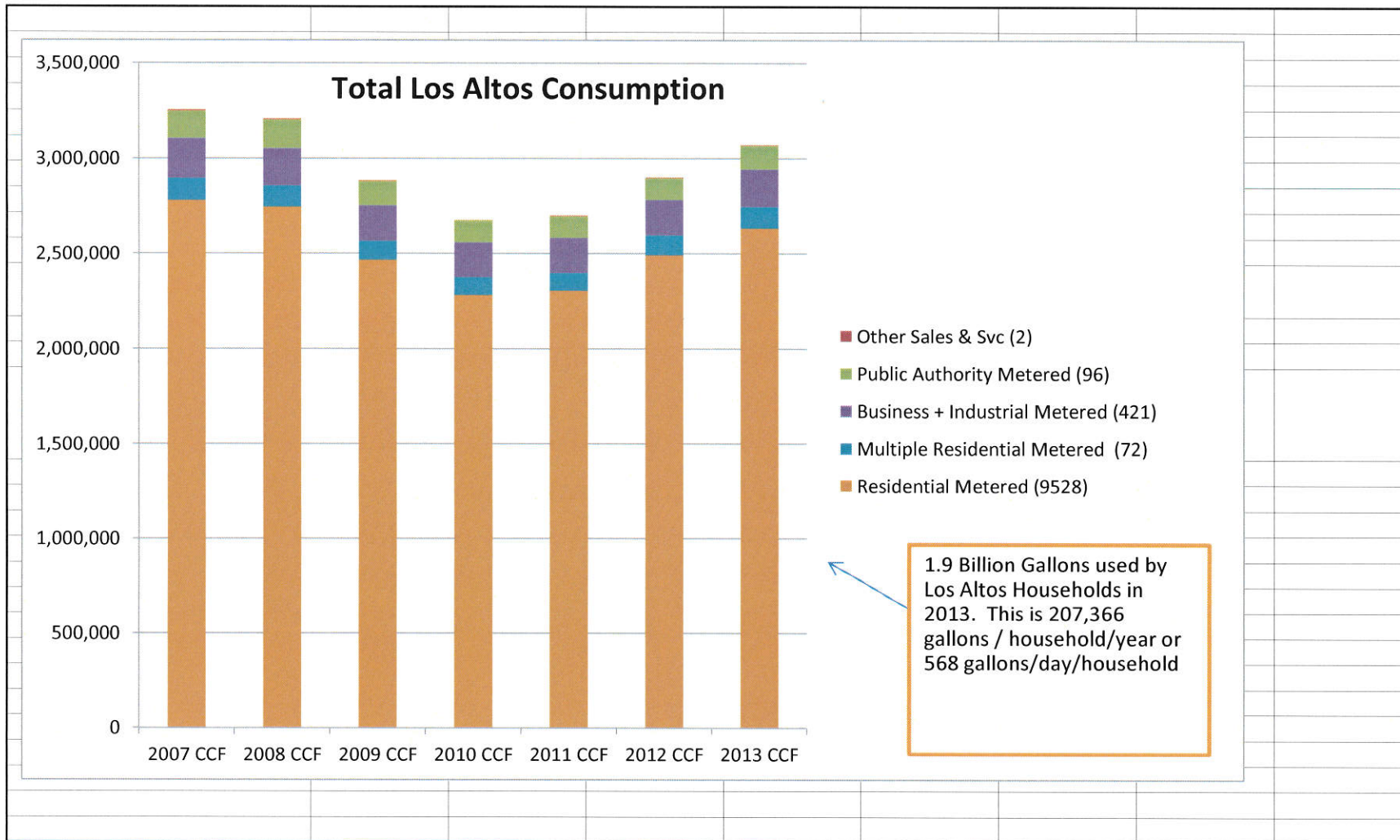
Receive an update on City of Los Altos agency water conservation efforts

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Provide additional direction regarding water conservation efforts

Prepared by: Susanna Chan, Public Works Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** None



# Average Gallons/Day per Los Altos Residential Household

