

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 15-

**CONTINUING THE CALL FOR 30 PERCENT WATER USE REDUCTIONS AND A
RESTRICTION ON OUTDOOR WATERING OF ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPES OR LAWNS
WITH POTABLE WATER TO TWO DAYS A WEEK THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016**

WHEREAS, in California, water is a precious and limited resource that must be used wisely; and

WHEREAS, calendar year 2013 was the driest year on record and precipitation in 2014 and 2015 has been insufficient to restore local water supplies; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) expanded and extended the Emergency Regulations for Statewide Urban Water Conservation (Emergency Regulations) through Resolution 2015-0013, including new requirements that urban water suppliers limit the number of days per week that customers irrigate outdoors and prohibitions on water waste; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2015, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors adopted Resolution 15-24 calling for water use reductions of 30 percent for Santa Clara County in calendar year 2015 as compared to 2013 and a restriction on outdoor watering with potable water to no more than two days a week through December 2015; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2015, the Governor directed the State Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns across California to reduce water usage by 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2015, the State Board adopted updated Emergency Regulations that became effective May 18, 2015 to address the Governor's April 1, 2015, Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2015, the Governor directed the State Board to extend water use restrictions through October 2016 if drought conditions persist through January 2016; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County relies on water supply imported by the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to provide water for drinking water treatment plants, replenish the local groundwater basin, and prevent the return of historic overdraft and land subsidence that could damage Bay-front levees and other critical infrastructure in northern Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, State Water Project allocations were reduced to 20 percent of contract quantity, Central Valley Project water allocations for agricultural water service contractors South-of-Delta were allocated zero percent of their contract quantity; and Central Valley Project M&I water service contractors South-of-Delta will receive enough water to meet their health and safety needs or at least 25 percent of their historic use, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, a District priority is the continued delivery of safe, clean drinking water from its treatment plants, and the lack of precipitation and depleted storage in State and federal reservoirs has caused poor water quality conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and low storage levels in San Luis Reservoir that may limit or interrupt treatment plant supplies; and

WHEREAS, local watershed runoff was low in the 2015 water year, and the District's ability to augment reservoir storage with imported water is limited because of California Department of Water Resources Division of Dam Safety requirements; and

WHEREAS, the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, contained within its Urban Water Management Plan, guides the District's water supply management actions for supply augmentation, increased water use reduction measures, and the use of local reserve supplies; and

WHEREAS, through careful water management, Santa Clara County groundwater reserves at the start of 2014 were well within the Normal stage of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, but due to limited recharge and increased groundwater pumping, these reserves were reduced by approximately 81,000 acre-feet by the end of 2014, within the lower end of the Alert stage; and

WHEREAS, groundwater reserves at the end of 2015 are estimated to fall within the Severe stage of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan despite significant countywide water use reduction of approximately 27 percent in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the District must maintain sufficient local surface and groundwater reserve supplies to meet local demands and cope with supply interruptions from natural disasters and catastrophic events such as an earthquake; and

WHEREAS, there is significant uncertainty as to local and statewide water supply conditions in the 2016 water year, and State Water Project and Central Valley Project allocations may continue to be reduced in 2016; and

WHEREAS, even if normal hydrology returns in 2016, continued water use reductions are needed to protect groundwater reserves; and

WHEREAS, the District through coordination with retail water agencies, local municipalities and the County of Santa Clara is continuing public outreach and education to create greater awareness of countywide water supply challenges and need for efficient water use; and

WHEREAS, the District must rely on the actions of the retail water agencies, local municipalities and the County of Santa Clara to enact and implement local ordinances and water use reduction measures; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to work closely with retail water agencies, untreated surface water customers, regulatory agencies, state and federal project operators and other water districts to manage District operations and continuing drought response. However, in consideration of the continued severity of the drought and continued limited water supply projections, continued water use reductions of 30 percent are needed to preserve groundwater storage and minimize the risk of land subsidence resuming.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District calls for a water use reduction target equal to 30 percent of 2013 water use and a

restriction on outdoor watering of ornamental landscapes or lawns with potable water to two days a week through June 30, 2016, and it is further recommended that retail water agencies, local municipalities, and the County of Santa Clara continue to implement additional mandatory measures as needed to achieve the 30 percent water use reduction target.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on November 24, 2015:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: _____
GARY KREMEN
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

Clerk/Board of Directors