

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 16- 55**

**CALLING FOR A 20% WATER USE REDUCTION THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2017, AND A RESTRICTION ON OUTDOOR WATERING OF ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPES OR LAWNS WITH POTABLE WATER TO A MAXIMUM OF THREE DAYS A WEEK; FURTHER, RECOMMENDING THAT WATER RETAILERS, LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AND THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT MANDATORY MEASURES AS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE A 20% WATER USE REDUCTION TARGET**

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 24, 2015, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors adopted Resolution 15-24 calling for water use reduction 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 November 24, 2015, by Resolution 15-70, the District continued its call for 30 percent water use reduction and restrictions on outdoor irrigation through June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County relies on water supply imported from the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to provide water for the 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, local watershed runoff was extremely 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, 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 water allocations for municipal and industrial (M&I) water service contractors South-of-Delta received enough water to meet their health and safety needs or at least 25 percent of their historic use, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the most recent State Water Project allocations are 60 percent of contract quantity; Central Valley Project preliminary allocations for agricultural water service contractors South-of-Delta are 5 percent of their contract quantity; and Central Valley Project preliminary allocations for M&I water service contractors South-of-Delta are 55 percent; and

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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 and another 23,000 acre-feet by the end of 2015; and

WHEREAS, groundwater reserves at the end of 2016 are estimated to fall within the low end of the "Alert" stage of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan despite significant countywide water use reduction of approximately 27 percent in 2015 and improved water supply conditions in 2016; 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, even though normal hydrology returned in 2016, continued water use reductions are needed to protect groundwater reserves, which have yet to recover to the "Normal" stage of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan; 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 support community and customer water use reduction measures; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board extended its Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation on May 18, 2016, allowing for locally developed water use reduction targets based on local conditions. Further, agencies like the District are required to provide analysis of water supply conditions assuming three additional dry years, and retailers may self certify the level of conservation necessary to assure adequate supply over that time; 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 reduced groundwater reserves as a result of four years of drought, water

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use reduction of 20 percent is needed to improve groundwater storage, minimize the risk of land subsidence resuming, and position District reserves for future dry years.

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 20 percent of 2013 water use and a restriction on outdoor watering of ornamental landscapes or lawns with potable water to a maximum of three days a week (odd numbered and no addresses may water on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays; even numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays) through January 31, 2017, effective July 1, 2016, and it is further recommended that retail water agencies, local municipalities and the County of Santa Clara continue to implement mandatory measures as needed to achieve the 20 percent water use reduction target.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on June 14, 2016:

AYES: Directors N. Hsueh, T. Estremera, B. Keegan, G. Kremen  
R. Santos, J. Varela

NOES: Directors L. LeZotte

ABSENT: Directors None

ABSTAIN: Directors None

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By:   
BARBARA KEEGAN  
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

  
Clerk/Board of Directors