

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 17- 43**

**RESCINDING RESOLUTION 17-08, AND CALLING FOR EFFORTS TO MAKE WATER  
CONSERVATION A WAY OF LIFE**

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

WHEREAS, locally and across California, severely dry conditions culminated in a historic multi-year drought from 2012 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2014, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors adopted Resolution 14-93 calling for water use reduction of 20 percent for Santa Clara County in calendar year 2014 as compared to 2013; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2015, the 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 recommended restrictions on outdoor irrigation through June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2016, by Resolution 16-55, due to improved water supplies, the District reduced its call for 30 percent water use reduction to 20 percent and increased the days per week restriction from two days per week to three days per week, through January 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2017, by Resolution 17-08, considering uncertainties in hydrology and imported water allocations, the District continued its call for 20 percent water use reductions and certain water waste prohibitions, but removed the recommendation that retailers implement mandatory measures; and

WHEREAS, the District commends water retailers and the community for their efforts to respond to the historic drought by reducing water use by 27 percent in 2015 and 28 percent in 2016 compared to 2013 water use; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, California is experiencing historic levels of rainfall and snowpack; 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 basins, 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, 2017 State Water Project (SWP) allocations are 85 percent; and

WHEREAS, 2017 Central Valley Project (CVP) allocations are 100 percent for both South of Delta M&I and Agricultural water service contractors, and in accordance with our Reallocation Agreement, the District's total allocation will be 152,500 AF; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, local watershed runoff was above average and most reservoirs filled; 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 and unprecedented water use savings by the community, Santa Clara County groundwater reserves at the start of 2017 were within the "Normal" stage of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and groundwater levels were well above thresholds established to minimize the risk of permanent subsidence; and

WHEREAS, the estimated end-of-year 2017 groundwater storage will remain within Stage 1 (Normal) of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan due to the improved imported water allocations and local water supply conditions in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan calls for no water use reductions in Stage 1 (Normal) groundwater conditions; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2017, Governor Brown declared the end of the emergency drought for most of the state, inclusive of Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the April 7, 2017, Executive Order (EO) B-40-17, rescinds Emergency Proclamation and Executive Orders; keeps provisions in EO B-37-16, such as: monthly reporting and water waste prohibitions, directs the State Water Resource Board (State Board) to make permanent prohibitions on water waste, and recommends the State Board to rescind mandatory conservation and stress tests, which the State Board did on April 26, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the State Board's Emergency Regulation includes the following prohibitions of water use:

- the application of potable 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 potable 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 potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
- the use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
- the application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 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;
- the irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians; and
- the irrigation with potable water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County and the region are subject to reoccurring droughts of varying severity, such as those prompting the District to call for water use reductions in 1977, 1987 to 1992, 2007 to 2010, and 2014 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, it is District policy, and is in the interest of the District and the community, to reduce the severity and occurrences of drought induced water shortage contingency actions such as water use reductions, and that water supplies should be developed to meet at least 90 percent of average annual demand in drought years; and

WHEREAS, continuing the progress and momentum of community water use reductions and water wise efforts to make water conservation a way of life will improve long-term water supply reliability through sustainable actions, thereby reducing the need to call for short term water use reductions or burdensome restrictions and allocations; and

WHEREAS, increasing long-term water conservation efforts and improving water use efficiency; strengthening local and regional drought planning, and increasing water supply and land use planning coordination are critical to Santa Clara County's resilience to drought, which may be intensified in the future with climate change; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to work closely with retail water agencies, untreated surface water customers, well owners, regulatory agencies, state and federal project operators and other water districts, and local municipalities and land use agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District hereby:

1. Rescinds Resolution 17-08; and
2. Commends water retailers, municipalities, and the community for the significant water use reductions achieved during the recent, historic drought. Specifically commends California Water Service Company; City of Campbell; City of Cupertino; City of Gilroy; Great Oaks Water Company; City of Los Altos; Town of Los Altos Hills; Town of Los Gatos; City of Milpitas; City of Monte Sereno; City of Morgan Hill; City of Mountain View; City of Palo Alto; Purissima Hills Water District; City of San Jose; San Jose Water Company; City of Santa Clara; City of Saratoga; Stanford University; City of Sunnyvale; County of Santa Clara; and
3. Calls for efforts to make water conservation a way of life; and
4. Recommends all municipalities consider permanent water waste prohibitions, including a maximum three day per week irrigation schedule for ornamental landscape or lawns with potable water; and

5. Supports increased efforts to increase countywide water use efficiency and water wise programs through continued investment; and
6. Supports water waste prohibitions currently in effect by the state, or as may be amended.
7. Calls for the community to voluntarily achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use, compared to 2013.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on June 13, 2017:

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

NOES: Directors None

ABSENT: Directors None

ABSTAIN: Directors None

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: 

JOHN L. VARELA  
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

  
Clerk/Board of Directors