



**CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 9, 2015**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**Agenda Item # 11**

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Resolution 2015-15, approving water conservation measures

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**BACKGROUND**

At its May 26, 2015 meeting, Council directed staff to revise the current City of Los Altos Water Conservation Measures Resolution No. 2014-23 and update water conservation measures: 1) to state actions that are necessary for residents to respond to the severe and ongoing drought conditions in California and; 2) to conform to and be consistent with Governor Brown's Executive Order and California Water Service mandates for 32% water reductions in the Los Altos Suburban Water District.

**EXISTING POLICY**

Resolution No. 2014-23 – Water Conservation Measures

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

June 24, 2014 – adoption of Water Conservation Resolution No. 2014-23; May 26, 2015 – Establishment of Water Conservation Measures

**DISCUSSION**

California Water Service (CWS), the local water retailer for the City of Los Altos, is expected to receive approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on its revised Schedule No. 14.1 and implement the Schedule effective June 1, 2015. This Schedule establishes water reduction mandates and provides monthly water budget allocations for individual water users along with enforcement measures for meeting a 32% reduction in water usage for residents, businesses and for City municipal operations. To support the State and the local CWS water reduction efforts, these measures are incorporated into the proposed Draft Resolution for Water Conservation Measures (Attachment 1). CWS is currently adjusting its mandates and the proposed Draft Resolution is intended to adjust accordingly.

The proposed Draft Resolution for Water Conservation Measures specifies six areas for the residential, business and water user communities to achieve water conservation in accordance with the 32% monthly water reduction mandates. Measures included in the Resolution are modeled on provisions in CWS Schedule No. 14.1 and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) model water conservation ordinance. Both CWS and SCVWD strive to provide a unified set of water reduction measures to ensure consistency of the regulations for the Santa Clara Valley water users.

The proposed Draft Resolution measures are intended to be practical and specific and to provide the Los Altos community clear guidelines on water consumption reductions and thereby, promote water conservation habits that will help in achieving the 32% water reduction mandates. CWS Schedule No. 14.1 regulations, however, are mandatory and have enforcement mechanisms in place for CWS to assess and impose strict penalties for non-compliant City of Los Altos water users. Together, the proposed City Draft Resolution and CWS regulations and enforcement of Schedule

No. 14.1 is designed to achieve the 32% target reduction of water usage in the Los Altos Suburban Water District.

Draft Resolution for Water Conservation Measures No. 2015-15 is attached in draft form to allow for the review and comments of California Water Service and Santa Clara Valley Water District staff. A revised Resolution for Water Conservation Measures No. 2015-15 may be presented prior to or at the City Council meeting on June 9, 2015.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

The Environmental Commission held meetings on the topic of water conservation and water use reductions on April 13, 2015, May 11, 2015 and June 8, 2015.

A public meeting was held by California Water Service on May 11, 2015 to address the drought, water use restrictions and conservation.

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

**FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT**

To be determined based upon Council direction.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Not applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. 2015-15, approving water conservation measures

**ALTERNATIVES**

Revise proposed Resolution, and direct staff accordingly

Prepared by: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Draft Resolution for Water Conservation Measures No. 2015-15

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
TO ADOPT WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

**WHEREAS**, the State of California is currently under severe drought conditions as a result of the State's unprecedented water supply shortage and outlook for water consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, historical evidence indicates that the State of California drought conditions are increasing due to the prolonged periods of drought in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not known how long the severe drought conditions will last; and

**WHEREAS**, measures are needed to encourage and promote water conservation efforts as ongoing practices now and in future years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of California declared drought emergencies on January 17, 2014 and April 25, 2014, and on April 1, 2015 mandated Californians reduce water consumption by 25% state-wide; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order B-29-15, issued on April 1, 2015, provisions include: 1) ordering the State Water Resources Control Board to impose restrictions to achieve a 25% reduction in potable urban water usage through February 28, 2016; 2) directing the California Department of Water Resources to lead a state-wide initiative, in partnership with local agencies, to collectively replace 50 million square feet of lawns and ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes; and 3) directing the California Energy Commission to implement a state-wide appliance rebate program to provide monetary incentives for the replacement of inefficient household devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor directed local water agencies to update their legally-required urban and agricultural water management plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's drought declaration also calls upon local urban water suppliers and municipalities to implement their local water shortage contingency plans immediately in order to avoid or forestall outright restrictions that could become necessary later in the drought season; and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term health, safety, and prosperity of the community depends upon having a reliable supply of potable water, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Altos Environmental Commission heard input from community groups and the public that encouraged communication and outreach efforts to the public in support of water reduction measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Altos endeavors to work in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to promote water conservation programs and rebates; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Altos endeavors to work in partnership with the local water retailer, California Water Service, in its efforts to implement water reduction mandates and enforcement measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Altos recommends practical water conservation methods and measurable reduction goals for water users to achieve (as compared to 2013 water usage data as provided by California Water Service) in an effort to provide clear reduction guidelines set forth by the local water retailer, California Water Service, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Altos organization has taken steps to reduce its water consumption by 32% and implement communication and outreach education efforts to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that the local water retailer, California Water Service may utilize different Stages in its Schedule No. 14.1 during the course of the drought conditions and thereby, the City resolution seeks to comply with any forthcoming requirements initiated by California Water Service.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby encourages the Los Altos community to reduce water consumption by 32% based on 2013 water usage data once it becomes available to customers by California Water Service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby recommends that City of Los Altos residents, businesses, and water users adopt the following water conservation measures:

- 1. Lawn, Landscape, Vegetated Watering Time and Day Restrictions** – watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape and/or other vegetated area with potable water may not take place between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** The purpose of time restrictions is to avoid watering during the heat and high evaporation conditions of the day.

In accordance with California Water Service Schedule No. 14.1, California Water Service will enforce the following outdoor irrigation schedule:

- a. **even numbered street address** will water on Tuesday and Friday
- b. **odd numbered street addresses** will water on Monday and Thursday;
- c. **no numbered street addresses** will water on Monday and Thursday

**The time restriction provisions above do not apply** to landscape irrigation zones that exclusively use very low flow drip type irrigation systems when no emitter produces more than two (2) gallons of water per hour and to microspray irrigation on lawns, landscaping and trees. This provision also does not apply to watering or irrigating by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container, a hand-held hose equipped with a positive self-closing water shut-off nozzle or device, or for very short periods of time for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing an irrigation system.

Violation of any of these water use restrictions may be subject to enforcement measures by California Water Service including a fine of up to \$100 for each day the violation occurs, installation of flow restrictors or discontinuance of water service. Waste of water in California Water service areas can be reported online at [www.calwater.com/water-waste-report](http://www.calwater.com/water-waste-report)

During all months of the year, users are encouraged to provide only minimal water to sustain plant growth without water run-off and to avoid over-watering and achieve the 32% water usage reduction. Irrigation is to be reduced or discontinued in cool and wet weather conditions. **No water is allowed to be applied during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.** Use of mulch or moisture enhancing materials on planting beds is encouraged to avoid rapid evaporation and to prolong water availability to the plants.

**Other prohibited uses of water in accordance with Cal Water Schedule No. 14.1:**

- Applying water to outdoor landscapes that causes runoff onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures
- Using a hose to wash motor vehicles unless the hose is filled with a shut-off nozzle or device that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use
- Applying water to driveways and sidewalks
- Using water in a fountain or other decorative water feature except when the water is part of a recirculating system
- Using potable water to irrigate outside of new construction without drip or microspray systems
- Filling or refilling ornamental lakes or ponds except to sustain existing aquatic life
- Using potable water on street medians. The City will ask for an exception for the watering of trees to avoid safety and risk hazards caused by lack of water. This request is consistent with the Governor's office intention for use of water in median strips.
- 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
- 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

2. **Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions** – all leaks, breaks or other malfunctions in the water user's plumbing or distribution system **must be repaired within five business days** upon receipt of notification or when discovered by the user.
3. **No Washing of Hard or Paved Surfaces** – washing down hard or paved surfaces, including but not limited to sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or alleys, is prohibited except when required to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards, and then only by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container, a hand-held hose

equipped with a positive self-closing water shut-off device, a low volume, high-pressure cleaning machine equipped to either recycle water used or use minimum water that avoids runoff, or a low volume high-pressure water broom.

- 4. **Avoid Excess Water Usage** – avoid use of continually running water sources such as a hose without a shut-off nozzle. When using a hose, a shut-off nozzle shall be used at all times to avoid unintended water flow and prevent runoff. Avoid washing or cleaning a vehicle except by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive self-closing water shut-off nozzle or device. **Pools and Spas** - refrain from overfilling swimming pools, spas and ponds and keep water at a minimum operational level. Draining and refilling swimming pools or spas shall be avoided for the duration of the drought condition. Use of pool/spa cover or cut-to-fit-floating foam cover is required to avoid evaporation. Refrain from use of automatic water filters to avoid water waste. Do not use pool/spa water features to avoid evaporation of water. Construction or reconstruction of existing pools that are shallow or smaller is encouraged to reduce the water volume and energy usage.
- 5. **Water Conservation in the Business Community** – use table signs stating that drinking water is served upon request only in eating or drinking establishments. Commercial lodging establishments are encouraged to provide guests the option to decline daily linen service. Avoid installation of Single Pass Cooling Systems in buildings requesting new water service; avoid installation of non-re-circulating water systems in commercial car wash and laundry systems. Restaurants are encouraged to use water conserving dish wash spray valves; use of recirculating water in non-drinking water fountains and decorative water features is encouraged for business and residential users.
- 6. **Recommendation that Parties Review and Comply with the City of Los Altos Water Efficient Landscape Regulations** – regulations are available at City Hall.

Other duly adopted restrictions on the use of potable water as prescribed from time-to-time by the water retailer, California Water Service or by the State of California are incorporated herein by reference.

This resolution shall remain active for the duration of the Governor’s drought emergency declaration.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the \_\_\_day of June, 2015 by the following vote:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janis C. Pepper, MAYOR

Attest:

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Jon Maginot, CMC, CITY CLERK