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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As the Goleta Valley Enters Another Summer of Drought Goleta Water District Declares Stage III Water Shortage Emergency With Mandatory Water Use Restrictions, Changes to Watering Times

On May 12, 2015 the Goleta Water District (District) Board of Directors declared a Stage III Water Shortage, with mandatory water use restrictions and changes to watering times. After four years of severe drought and an historic lack of rainfall, water conservation is critical to ensure adequate supplies for drinking, health, and public safety. As we enter another summer of drought, the District is targeting a 35% district-wide reduction in water usage. Mandatory water use restrictions under Stage III include:

- Manual watering (including a hose with a sprinkler attached) is now restricted to before 8 am and after 8 pm no more than two days per week.
- Fixed irrigation (i.e. installed) sprinkler systems are now limited to before 6 am or after 8 pm, Wednesday and/or Saturday for residential customers, Tuesday and/or Friday for commercial customers.
- Public recreation, athletic fields, and golf courses may not water more than two days a week, and are restricted to watering before 6 am or after 8 pm.
- Agricultural customers using overhead sprinklers outdoors are restricted to before 10 am or after 4 pm.
- Hotels are now required to post water shortage notices and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by the patron. Please contact the district for complimentary signs/notices.

Saving water is critical now. "We recognize our residential customers as leaders in the state using an average of only 53 gallons per person per day in April, but we need to communicate the severity of the drought crisis facing the Goleta Valley," said Board President Lauren Hanson. "As the drought continues we are going to be facing more significant restrictions with the potential for adverse economic impact to the community. The more we conserve now, the longer we can delay the need for a Stage IV declaration, which could prohibit all residential and commercial outdoor irrigation."

A number of mandatory water use restrictions adopted under previous drought stages remain in effect, including:

- Hoses must be equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- Direct application of water to sidewalks, pavements, open ground, or other hard surfaced area is generally prohibited.
- Washing buildings, dwellings, or other structures is generally prohibited.

- Vehicles and boats may only be washed at commercial car washing facilities or with a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- Use of water in outdoor fountains, reflection ponds, and decorative water features is prohibited unless located on a residential property or home to aquatic life that has been in place since or before September 9, 2014.
- Restaurants may only serve water if specifically requested by the patron.

The Stage III declaration and associated reduction measures are tied to the District's adopted Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan as well as the statewide emergency conservation regulations recently adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Repeated violations will be penalized with fines ranging from \$100 up to \$500 following a warning and written notice.

For a full list of restrictions, and drought related forms please contact the District at (805)964-6761 or www.goletawater.com.

The District Water Conservation Program is available to help customers save water. For assistance evaluating water use at your home or business, including identifying opportunities for additional conservation, please contact the District. Several water savings incentive and rebate programs are also available to District customers. Please contact the District for specific program information at (805)964-6761 or www.goletawater.com

The Goleta Water District provides water to a diverse population of approximately 87,000 in the Goleta Valley area, including agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. The District's water supply portfolio includes the Goleta Groundwater Basin, connections with Lake Cachuma and the State Water Project, and the recycled water system. The system includes over 270 miles of pipelines, a water treatment plant, storage reservoirs, pumping facilities, and 8 active wells.

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