



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PWD REVERTS TO VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION FOLLOWING WINTER STORMS

Palmdale, CA – Palmdale Water District (PWD) has downgraded its conservation guidelines from mandatory to voluntary, effectively eliminating patrolling for off-day watering and related fines.

At the recommendation of staff, the Board of Directors unanimously voted Monday to revert to the voluntary phase of its Stage 2 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), which also includes a 12% conservation request rather than the 20% during the mandatory phase. Customers are now encouraged to limit irrigation to any three days of the week and avoid the hottest hours of the day. This will help save water for future, dry years.

Also, the 40-cent per unit drought surcharge added to the cost of water used in Tiers 3-5, the non-essential usage tiers, will end on April 1.

“This has been a long drought, and we appreciate the efforts of our customers who responded to our call for conservation,” said PWD Resource

(more)

and Analytics Director Peter Thompson Jr. “Our water supply looks good this year, but conservation is still very important.”

Despite the improved water supply, PWD must continue with the voluntary phase of its WSCP until the state rescinds its Stage 2 mandate. In addition, the Water Waste Policy remains in effect and includes no outdoor watering 48 hours after measurable rain and requirements for fixing leaks within one week of discovery.

Based on the standard goal to save 5,000 acre-feet of water for 2024 and each following year, PWD’s water supply would be short 12% this year if the State Water Project (SWP) does not increase the 35% allocation issued at the end of February. (The 12% is the percentage PWD is requesting for customers to conserve this year compared to 2020.) SWP will issue a final allocation by June. An acre-foot of water is equal to 326,000 gallons. A family of four in Palmdale uses an average of 190,000 gallons of water annually.

“We can finally relax a bit, but this is not the last drought we’re going to see in California,” Thompson said. “So, valuing and conserving our water is something we all need to continue to embrace.”

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit www.palmdalewater.org.

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