

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-23

**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 drought conditions as a result of the State's water supply shortage and outlook for water consumption, and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California declared a drought emergency on January 27, 2014 and asked Californians for a 20% reduction in water consumption; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2014, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors declared a 20% water use reduction target and has reduced wholesale water supplies to retailers accordingly for the remainder of 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District subcommittee proposed and distributed a Model Water Conservation Ordinance to local agencies to provide guidelines and to encourage local efforts for reduction of water usage; and

WHEREAS, historical evidence indicates that the State of California has experienced prolonged periods of drought in recent years; and

WHEREAS, it is not known how long the drought 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 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 education efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos endeavors to work in partnership with the local water retailer, California Water Service, to implement water conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos recommends practical methods for water reduction and measurable conservation goals for water users to achieve in comparison with 2013 water usage data from Cal Water, the local water retailer, thus avoiding confusion to the consumer and to speak in one voice with the local retailer and the Santa Clara Valley Water District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos has taken steps to reduce internal City water consumption by 20% and implement communication and outreach education efforts to the community; and

WHEREAS, if voluntary efforts by water users are not achieving the necessary results, the City of Los Altos and Cal Water may need to adopt more stringent water conservation measures.

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 20% based on 2013 water usage data once it becomes available to customers by Cal Water.

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 voluntary water conservation measures:

1. Recommendations for Lawn, Landscape, Vegetated Watering Time Restrictions – watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape and/or other vegetated area with potable water is discouraged between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The purpose of time restrictions is to avoid watering during the heat and high evaporation conditions of the day. During the months of June – October, users are encouraged to provide only minimal water to sustain plant growth without water run-off and to avoid over-watering and achieve the 20% water usage reduction. During the months of November through May, watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape or other vegetated area with potable water is to be minimal as needed excluding the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and irrigation is to be reduced or discontinued in cool and wet weather conditions. Use of mulch on planting beds is encouraged to avoid rapid evaporation and to prolong water availability to the plants.

The time restriction provision does 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. 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.

Water use for filling decorative ponds or lakes is prohibited. Water use for filling decorative fountains is prohibited unless the fountain uses a recirculation system.

2. Recommendations for 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 seventy-two (72) hours of notification by the City or when discovered by the user.

3. Recommendations for 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. **Recommendations to 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. Refrain from overfilling swimming pools and ponds and keep water at a minimum operational level. Draining and refilling swimming pools shall be avoided for the duration of the drought condition.

5. **Recommendations to Encourage 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.

7. 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 24th day of June, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: BRUINS, CARPENTER, FISHPAW, PEPPER, SATTERLEE
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE



Megan Satterlee, MAYOR

Attest:



Jon Maginot, CMC, CITY CLERK