



## CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue ♦ Signal Hill, CA 90755-3799

July 12, 2016

### **AGENDA ITEM**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: STEVE MYRTER, P.E.  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RESCINDING DECLARATION OF A LEVEL 2 WATER  
SUPPLY SHORTAGE AND DECLARING A LEVEL 1 WATER SUPPLY  
SHORTAGE**

### **Summary:**

In response to the Governor's, Executive Order B-37-16 issued On May 9, 2016, the City Council will consider rescinding the current declaration of Level 2 water supply shortage and declare a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage in accordance with the City of Signal Hill Municipal Code Chapter 13.03.

### **Recommendation:**

Waive further reading and adopt the following resolution, entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05-6127 AND DECLARING A LEVEL 2 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE AND DECLARING A LEVEL 1 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SIGNAL HILL MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.03

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None.

## **Strategic Plan Objective**

This resolution serves Strategic Plan Objective No. 5.8.3: Water Conservation.

### **Background:**

Most experts consider the current drought which, in spite of the recent El Niño weather event, continues to grip the state for the fifth straight year. One of the worst in history, the drought still covers the entire state. Moreover, Extreme to Exceptional Level Drought (the highest levels on the drought severity scale) covers 43% of the state, including all of Southern California.

The Sierra Nevada snowpack was 87% of the historic average in April 2016, but still disappointing and has not provided the anticipated spring flows. Statewide, however, water storage reservoirs are substantially higher. In some cases even higher than their average. This increase in storage has significantly improved the short-term water supply outlook, even though the drought continues.

In 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted emergency regulations implementing a statewide overall reduction in potable water use of 25% as mandated by the Governor's Executive Order B29-15. This emergency regulation sets tiered reduction goals for each urban water supplier based on current and historical water use.

In response to the State Emergency Drought Regulations, the City Council declared a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage in May 2015. Water use restrictions, including limiting watering turf to two days per week, were imposed at that time. These requirements, specific to Level 2, were additional to numerous water use restrictions that had already been enacted by the City Council prior to the state issuing these Emergency Drought Regulations. Overall, the state reduced water consumption by 23.9%. The City of Signal Hill reduced use by 20.1% through July 2016.

In May 2016, the Governor issued a new directive, Executive Order B-37-16, which directs the SWRCB to promulgate permanent regulations requiring more efficient use of water, and preparation for more frequent, persistent periods of limited water supply. These new state water regulations are to be developed by January 2017. In the interim, the state has published temporary water restrictions that recognize differing water supply conditions across the state.

In these temporary implementation regulations, water conservation requirements continue to be based on the size of the water supplier's system. As defined within state regulations, water suppliers that service 3,000 meters or more are referred to as "urban water suppliers". Whereas, water systems that service less than 3,000 customer meters are defined as "small community water suppliers". Signal Hill falls within the criteria of a small community water supplier.

The SWRCB Regulation specifies two requirements for public small community water suppliers. The requirements are as follows:

1. Provide prompt notice to a customer whenever the supplier obtains information that indicates that a leak may exist within the end-user's exclusive control, and
2. Submission of a report by December 15, 2016, on a form provided by the Board, that identifies total potable water production, by month, from December 2015 through November 2016, total potable water production, by month, for the same months in 2013, and any actions taken by the supplier to encourage or require its customers to conserve water.

As a small community water supplier, the City is exempt from the new mandatory three year water supply assessment and goal-setting. Certain specific water-wasting prohibitions in the regulations still apply.

In its meeting on July 5, 2016, the Sustainable City Committee received a presentation on the status of water supplies and new regulations. The committee recommended that Signal Hill move to a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage (WSS) in order to continue water conservation efforts while synchronizing with the City of Long Beach watering schedule; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

### **Analysis:**

The new SWRCB regulations implementing Executive Order B-37-16 establish a process for establishing supplies and goals for Urban Water Suppliers, no such process applies to small water systems. Thus, SWRCB water conservation goal-setting is not applicable to Signal Hill. The following specific restrictions remain in effect:

- Watering time limitations
- No hose-down of hardscapes
- No washing autos without shutoff valve
- Must use recirculating water in fountains
- No run-off from watering a lawn
- No watering a lawn for 48 hours after rain
- No Irrigating median turf
- No swimming pool Initial fill or refill > 1 ft.
- Fix leaks within 72 hours
- Drinking water served on request
- Hospitality laundry service on request

Two factors affect water policy decisions between now and January 2017:

- Pending promulgation of new regulations and availability of a revised state model water conservation ordinance early in 2017
- The condition of landscape and trees after a year of severe watering limitations

In light of these factors, a number of cities have taken action to increase watering days from two to three days per week. This allows communities to reduce stress on landscape and trees while new regulations are pending and during ongoing upgrades to irrigation equipment to improve efficiency. Increasing the number of watering days is done with the knowledge that new permanent regulations will take effect in less than a year enabling the City to prioritize water conservation investments and update the City's water conservation program ordinance.

Under the recently revised regulations in effect through January 2017, there is no prohibition against increasing automated sprinkler watering frequency to three days per week. Staff recommends the City Council declare, by resolution, a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage in accordance with the provisions specified in the City's Water Conservation Program. The Program, in part, limits outdoor water use to three days per week. In addition to the Level 1 WSS limitations, the following actions will be implemented by resolution:

- Leak repair notification within 48 hours
- Prohibition against watering turf in medians
- Prohibition against initial pool fill or refill of more than one foot
- Automated irrigation from October 1 through March 31 each year will be limited to two days per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays

By declaring a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage, permanent water use restrictions, and additional actions identified in the resolution become effective. Descriptions of the permanent water conservation requirements and Level 1 Water Supply Shortage requirements are detailed in Attachment "A" and Attachment "B", respectively.

### **Ongoing Water Conservation Efforts**

The City continues to encourage water conservation through:

- Weekly ad placement in the Signal Tribune with rotating messages that encourage tree watering as well as reminders about turf watering limitations
- Drought tolerant landscaping, high efficiency irrigation demonstration projects, and tree care information
- Featuring articles on water conservation topics in City Views
- Updating Facebook water conservation messages
- Distribution of conservation kits at City Hall and special events
- Posting a water conservation video message on the City's TV channel and website

The City is encouraging individuals, businesses and institutions to water trees adequately as allowed by the City's Water Conservation Program. Protecting the health of the City's trees is a priority. The City's Water Conservation Program ordinance specifically allows for watering of trees by hand and using automated low flow (e.g., drip and micro-spray) devices.

The City of Signal Hill is a member agency of Central Basin Municipal Water District (a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District), making our residential and business water customers eligible for numerous water conservation rebate programs. Currently, single-family residences are eligible for the following rebates:

- Weather based irrigation controllers - \$80
- High efficiency clothes washers - \$85
- Rain barrels - \$75
- High efficiency toilets - \$40

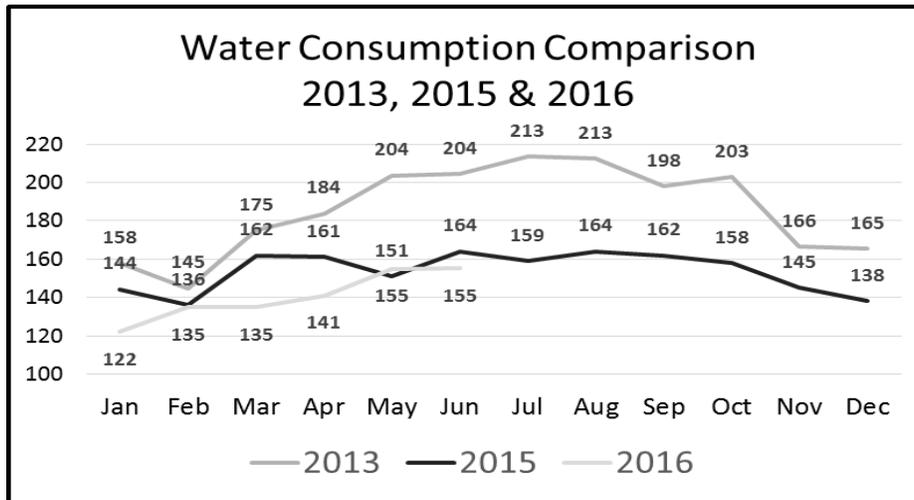
Additionally, Signal Hill commercial customers, including HOAs, are eligible for the following rebates:

- Ice making machines - \$1,000
- High efficiency toilet tanks - \$40
- Ultralow and zero water urinals - \$200

More information about the water conservation rebate programs offered can be found at [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com).

The City is making every effort to help citizens meet our water conservation goals. In the past several years, several drought-tolerant landscaping projects have been constructed in the City. Drought tolerant demonstration gardens exist at the City Yard, Reservoir Park, and along Hill Street adjacent to City Hall. Staff maintains the City's Parkway Design Guide to provide specific guidance for replacing turf with drought-tolerant landscaping.

The graph below shows historical water consumption (based on reported production). The current reporting base year is 2013. In 2015, the City achieved an overall reduction of 20%. For 2016 year-to-date, water use is tracking at or below 2015 values.



Staff will maintain its implementation of enhanced public outreach efforts and conservation with the goal of continuing to use less than the 2013 baseline water consumption. A summary of the City’s drought response plan is included in Attachment “C”.

Approved:

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Charlie Honeycutt

Attachments

## Attachment "A"

### Permanent Water Conservation Requirements

The following water conservation requirements are effective at all times and shall be permanent. Violations of this section shall be considered wasteful and an unreasonable use of water.

- a. **Limits on Watering Hours:** Watering or irrigating lawn, landscape, or other vegetated area with potable water is prohibited between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time on any day, except 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 (15 minutes), for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing an irrigation system.
- b. **Limit on Watering Duration:** Watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape, or other vegetated area with potable water using a landscape irrigation system or a watering device that is not continuously attended to is limited to no more than fifteen (15) minutes watering per day per station. This provision does not apply to landscape irrigation systems that exclusively use very-low flow drip type irrigation systems when no emitter produces more than two (2) gallons of water per hour, weather based controllers or stream rotor sprinklers that meet a 70% efficiency standard.
- c. **No excessive Water Flow or Runoff:** Watering or irrigating any lawn, landscape or vegetated area in a manner that causes or allows excessive water flow or runoff onto an adjoining sidewalk, driveway, street, alley, gutter, or ditch is prohibited.
- d. **No Washing Down 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 necessary 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 or a low volume, high pressure cleaning machine.
- e. **Obligations to Fix Leaks, Breaks, or Malfunctions:** Excessive use, loss, or escape of water through leaks, breaks, or other malfunctions in the water user's plumbing or distribution system for any period of time after such escape of water should have reasonably been discovered and corrected and in no event more than seven (7) days of receiving notice from the City, is prohibited.
- f. **Re-circulating Water Required for Water Fountains and Decorative Water Features:** Operating a water fountain or other decorative water feature that does not use re-circulated water is prohibited

- g. Limits on Washing Vehicles: Using water to wash or clean a vehicle, including but not limited to any automobile, truck, van, bus, motorcycle, boat or trailer, whether motorized or not is prohibited, except 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. This provision does not apply to any commercial car washing facility.
- h. Drinking Water Served Upon Request Only: Eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to a restaurant, hotel, café, bar, club, or other public place where food or drinks are sold, served, or offered for sale, are prohibited from providing drinking water to any person unless expressly requested.
- i. Commercial Lodging Establishments Must Provide Option to Not Launder Linen Daily: Hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments must provide customers the option of not having towels and linen laundered daily. Commercial lodging establishments shall prominently display notice of this option in each bathroom using clear and easily understood language.
- j. No Installation of Single Pass Cooling System: Installation of single pass cooling systems is prohibited in buildings requesting new water service.
- k. No Installation of Non-re-circulating Commercial Car Wash and Laundry Systems: Installation of non-re-circulating water systems is prohibited in new commercial conveyor car wash and new commercial laundry systems.
- l. Restaurants Required to Use Water Conserving Dish Wash Spray Valves: Food preparation establishments, such as restaurants or cafes, are prohibited from using non-water conserving dish wash spray valves.
- m. Commercial Car Wash Systems: all commercial conveyor car wash systems must have installed and operational re-circulating water systems, or must have secured an extension of this requirement from the City.
- n. Large Landscape Areas – Rain Sensors: large landscape areas, such as parks, cemeteries, golf courses, school grounds, and playing fields, that use landscape irrigation systems to water or irrigate, must use landscape irrigation systems with rain sensors that automatically shut off such systems during periods of rain or irrigation timers which automatically use information such as evapotranspiration sensors to set an efficient water use schedule, or must have secured an extension of this requirement from the City.
- o. Reporting Mechanism – Hotline: The City will establish a water waste hotline for residents to report violations of this chapter. This hotline may be set-up and offered through a dedicated phone number and/or through submittal on the City's web site.

## Attachment "B"

### Level 1 Water Shortage Conservation Requirements

The following water conservation requirements modify the limitations specified in the ordinance for declaration of a Level 1 Water Shortage. The following seasonal watering schedule and additional limitations are included in the Resolution. These requirements are in addition to Level 1 WSS requirements and permanent restrictions listed in Attachment "A". Violations of this section shall be considered wasteful and an unreasonable use of water.

- a. Irrigating landscape with potable water any day other than Tuesday or Saturday beginning on the first day of October through the end of the last day of the following March, except for very short periods of time for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing the irrigation system:
- b. Irrigating landscape with potable water any day other than Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday beginning on the first day of April through the end of the last day of the following September, except for very short periods of time for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing the irrigation system:
- c. Limits on Filling Residential Swimming Pools and Spas. Re-filling of more than one foot and initial filling of residential swimming pools or outdoor spas with potable water is prohibited.
- d. 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 forty-eight hours of notification by the city unless other arrangements are made with the city.
- e. Median Irrigation. The irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.

## **Summary Outline of Drought Response Implementation Plan**

### **1. Notification and Community Outreach**

- A comprehensive brochure explaining the current drought situation, Water Conservation Program Ordinance requirements, prohibited uses and the most effective ways to achieve conservation savings.
- Continuation of a separate Water Conservation/Drought Awareness webpage with updates as necessary.
- Ordinance requirements will be published in the local newspapers.
- Press releases submitted to the Signal Tribune, to various city publications, homeowner association newsletters and other community publications.
- Bill inserts and short conservation messages printed on municipal utility bills.
- Commercial ads in newspapers and other media outlets.
- Promotion of ways to conserve and comply with the Ordinance at various community events.
- Possible cooperative partnership information program with other water utilities and cities in area.
- Accelerated community outreach efforts all of which will promote efficient water use practices and inform customers of prohibited wasteful practices.

### **2. Advisory and Enforcement Activities**

- Staff training of appropriate personnel with requisite knowledge to inform customers where to find requested information regarding conservation programs.
- An enhanced data base to record and track inquiries and a reporting system to track the program activity.
- Submittal of advisory letters, warning letters, and last notice letters to violators of the Ordinance.
- Field investigations of inquiries and complaints, and provision of customer assistance to meet requirement of the Ordinance.
- Customer service field audits to assist customers with reducing water demands.
- Issuance of citations and fines to repeat violators, if necessary.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-07-6185**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05-6127 AND DECLARING A LEVEL 2 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE AND DECLARING A LEVEL 1 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SIGNAL HILL MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.03**

**WHEREAS**, on January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued Proclamation No. 1-17-2014 declaring a statewide drought and encouraged regional and local water agencies to take aggressive actions to reduce water consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 25, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed that the orders and provisions contained in Proclamation No. 1-17-2014 remained in full force and effect with additional measures as the drought conditions persist; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2014, the City of Signal Hill City Council declared a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage in accordance with the provisions specified in Municipal Code Chapter 13.03, the City's Water Conservation Program; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B29-15 directing a statewide 25 % reduction in water use and requiring certain water conservation measures; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 19, 2015, the City of Signal Hill City Council declared a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage in accordance with the provisions specified in Municipal Code Chapter 13.03, the City's Water Conservation Program; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B37-16 directing the State Water Resources Control Board to update temporary emergency water restrictions and transition to permanent, long term improvements in water use; and

**WHEREAS**, Water supply conditions in California improved during the winter of 2015-16; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 1, 2016, snow pack in the northern Sierra Nevada Mountains watershed, which feeds the State Water Project, was normal for that time of year; and

**WHEREAS**, water storage reservoirs levels are substantially higher statewide and in some cases even higher than their historical average; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Water District revoked its water supply shortage allocation; and

**WHEREAS**, clean and sustainable water resources are vital to the City of Signal Hill, its environment, economy, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, all water users in the City, including commercial, industrial, private citizens, and others can make positive contributions to reduce water use; and

**WHEREAS**, water conservation continues to be essential in order to meet regional and state water reliability goals, and because much of the state remains in an extremely dry condition and some state water system storage reservoirs remain below normal levels ; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Signal Hill is authorized to implement a water conservation program according to current drought conditions and state water agency declarations; and

**WHEREAS**, current water supply conditions warrant declaration of the Level 1 Water Supply Shortage of the City's Water Conservation ordinance, in accordance with Chapter 13.03 to help mitigate drought impacts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Signal Hill, hereby, in accordance with the provisions outlined in Chapter 13.03 of the Signal Hill Municipal Code makes the appropriate findings of necessity, including the foregoing, to enforce and to declare:

1. That a Stage 2 Water Supply Shortage no longer exists and therefore Resolution No. 2015-05-6127 shall be repealed.
2. That a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage exists in accordance with the City's Water Conservation Ordinance, Chapter 13.03 of the City of Signal Hill Municipal Code and that the following prohibitions shall become operative:
  - a. Irrigating landscape with potable water any day other than Tuesday or Saturday beginning on the first day of October through the end of the last day of the following March, except for very short periods of time for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing the irrigation system.
  - b. Irrigating landscape with potable water any day other than Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday beginning on the first day of April through the end of the last day of the following September, except for very short periods of time for the express purpose of adjusting or repairing the irrigation system.
  - c. Limits on Filling Residential Swimming Pools and Spas. Re-filling of more than one foot and initial filling of residential swimming pools or outdoor spas with potable water is prohibited.
  - d. 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 forty-eight hours of notification by the city unless other arrangements are made with the City.
  - e. Median Irrigation. The irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Signal Hill, California this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

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LORI Y WOODS  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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ROBER D. COPELAND  
CITY CLERK

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) ss,  
CITY OF SIGNAL HILL     )

I, ROBERT D. COPELAND, City Clerk of the City of Signal Hill, California, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2016-07-xxxx was adopted by the City Council of the City of Signal Hill at a regular meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016, and that the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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ROBERT D. COPELAND  
CITY CLERK