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## Voluntary Water Reductions

This is to inform you that we will be asking all customers to voluntarily cut their water usage by at least 5%. This is due to ongoing drought conditions and being placed into severe drought by the US Drought Monitor as of April 7<sup>th</sup>. According to the drought monitor we are currently approximately 7 inches below normal for rainfall this far into the year. It is also due to very high demand which has caused us to be at 80% of plant capacity. Listed below are ways to cut back to assist with the voluntary reductions. Once there is a reprieve from usage or drought we will notify the public of the change and any changes in the reduction.

- Irrigating landscapes a maximum of one inch per week
- Preventing water waste, runoff and watering impervious surfaces, watering plants deeply to encourage root growth
- Washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers
- Using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses
- Identifying and repairing all water leaks
- Reduce residential vehicle washing
- Avoid outdoor watering during daytime hours (Sunrise to Sunset)

### Other Tips

- Kitchen
  - Eliminate leaks by replacing old gaskets. A dripping faucet can waste 3,600 gallons a year.
  - Install faucet aerators.
  - Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge, instead of running water until it's cold.
  - Don't leave the water running while rinsing dishes.
  - Don't use a garbage disposal.
  - Don't rinse dirty dishes before loading into dishwasher; scrape clean and let the machine do the rest.
  - Don't thaw frozen food under running water.
- Bathroom
  - Don't leave the water running while rinsing, shaving, or brushing teeth.
  - If you hear running water in your toilet tank, adjust the leaky float valve or replace the faulty hardware.
  - Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket.
  - Install a water-filled plastic jug or a "toilet tank bag" in your toilet tank to reduce the water used per flush.
  - Check for leaks by dropping a small amount of food coloring in the upper tank. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
  - Take shorter showers. Install faucet aerators and water-saving showerheads.
- Outdoors
  - Check for and repair leaky garden taps, hose connections and sprinkler valves.
  - Water slowly, thoroughly, and as infrequently as possible to promote deep roots and healthy plants. Hold your garden hose close to the roots of plants so that there's little waste and evaporative loss. Add compost and other organic matter to your soil to improve its water holding capacity.
  - Choose plants that don't require a lot of water.
  - Mulch all plant beds to reduce evaporation, weeds, and soil temperature.
  - Position sprinklers so that they do not water pavement.
  - Use rinse water from the house to water plants in or near the house.
  - Never let water run unnecessarily.
  - Limit car washing. Use a bucket and a hose with spray attachment.
  - Don't use the hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. A broom will provide more exercise