



EAST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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EAST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT RESPONDS TO DROUGHT EMERGENCY

District focuses on flexibility and responsiveness to state requirements

Highland, Calif., (April 23, 2015) – East Valley Water District (District) made recommendations Wednesday to ensure compliance with current drought regulations and to adjust the District’s processes allowing for increased flexibility and responsiveness to the statewide drought emergency.

“Like other water districts throughout California, we have taken steps to encourage efficient water use. We are experiencing an unprecedented drought that requires a new sense of urgency to respond rapidly,” said James Morales, Jr., East Valley Water District Chairman. “This drought is as an opportunity to improve our standards of living in the community, and embrace a new perspective on what water conservation looks like.”

In response to the Governor’s Executive Order on April 1, the State Water Board has released draft regulation guidelines that will require the District to reduce water consumption by 28 percent. To comply with the impending regulations, the District’s Board of Directors unanimously approved prohibiting irrigation during and two days after a rain event and the addition of watering day restrictions. Additionally, the Board approved the formation of an Ad-Hoc Conservation Committee with Directors Nanette Shelton and Chris Carrillo representing the Board. The Committee will work directly with staff to develop a plan to address the need for new restrictions along with revised water conservation programming. Proposed changes will be presented to the Board of Directors at a Public Hearing during the May 27 regular meeting.

Effective June 1, East Valley Water District will implement a budget based rate billing program that will provide each customer with a unique water budget identifying inefficient use. As part of the rate analysis process, a 20% reduction in water conservation was incorporated. That assumption, along with the 13 percent system decrease the District has already experienced since 2013, positions the residents of East Valley Water District’s service area to take quick actions for significant water savings.

“There is a new sense of urgency and we need to get programs in place quickly,” said John Mura, District General Manager/CEO. “We have a responsibility to protect our natural resources and educate customers to a new way of life in the community. We will accomplish this by being flexible, innovative and responsive in our approach to meeting the new regulations.”

For more information on the drought and how you can take steps to conserve, visit eastvalley.org.

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East Valley Water District is a California Special District that provides water and wastewater services to 101,733 residents within the City of Highland and portions of both the City and County of San Bernardino. For more information please visit the District’s website at www.eastvalley.org.