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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Hughson Adopts Emergency Ordinance Limiting Outdoor Irrigation

The State of California is currently in its fourth year of drought—the worst recorded drought in California’s history. On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown initiated the first ever statewide mandatory water restriction (Executive Order B-29-15). The Governor’s action seeks to ensure conservation through enhanced enforcement, which is to be carried out by local water providers. The Order creates two different regulations based on the size of the water supplier: 1) urban water suppliers (i.e. more than 3,000 water customers) and 2) small urban water distributors (i.e. less than 3,000 water customers).

Urban water suppliers are designated into tiers that establish water use percentage reduction that the supplier must meet compared to the same month in 2013. The small urban water distributors are required to implement one of the following two mandatory conservation measures:

1. Achieve a 25% reduction in water consumption, or
2. Limit outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week.

The Hughson City Council recently took action that effective July 8, 2015 would limit irrigation of outdoor landscapes to two days per week as follows:

Even-numbered addresses: Tuesdays and Saturdays before 8:00 am or after 7:00 pm

Odd-number addresses: Wednesdays and Sundays before 8:00 am or after 7:00 pm

"While these restrictions are mandatory, we will begin with warnings and an educational campaign because the goal is voluntary compliance," said City Manager Raul Mendez. "For those who continue to misuse this precious resource, which is so important to our region, citations will follow."

Customers will receive a warning for the first infraction. However, per the Hughson Municipal Code (HMC 1.12.010), the first citation will be issued for \$100; \$200 for a second citation and \$500 for the third and all subsequent citations.

"Residents can significantly reduce their household water use by limiting landscape watering, which is where most water use—and water waste—occurs," said Sam Rush, Public Works Superintendent. At a typical home, more than 50 percent of the water use goes to watering lawns and other outdoor landscaping, and about 30 percent of that is lost due to overwatering and evaporation from wind and sun."

To help with this important effort, it is important that we all do our part. To that end, the City of Hughson offers the following ways to conserve water:

- Keep showers as brief as possible
- Turn water off while brushing your teeth or washing your face or hands
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes
- Replace older model showerheads, faucets and toilets with new low-flow models
- Inspect toilets for silent leaks by putting food coloring in the toilet tank. If colored water leaks into the toilet bowl before flushing, water is being lost due to a worn flapper
- Do not allow runoff while watering outdoor landscaping during the allowable times.
- Refrain from washing any vehicle or motorbike unless the dirt poses a driving hazard
- Refrain from washing down any sidewalk, walkway, driveway, parking lot or any other hard-surfaced area
- Refrain from filling, refilling or adding water to any indoor or outdoor swimming pool or spa.

In addition, the City of Hughson is offering a pilot voluntary water audit to any resident who is interested. The audit could provide helpful information to determine how to conserve water (and thus lower water bills) by determining when water is being used and ways to reduce usage, as well as determine any potential leaks in the home. To sign up to receive a water audit, please contact City Hall at 209.883.4054.

For more information please visit the City of Hughson website at www.hughson.org or call 209.883.4054.

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