



RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD LETTER APPROVAL

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MARTIN L. ADAMS
Senior Assistant General Manager
Water System

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MARCIE L. EDWARDS
General Manager

DATE: July 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Transition to Phase III of the City of Los Angeles (City)
Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance (Ordinance)

SUMMARY

The proposed transition from Phase II to Phase III of the City Ordinance (attached) is presented to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) based upon ongoing monthly monitoring and evaluation of water supply and demand. Phase III will implement a two-day-a-week outdoor watering schedule, add new watering restrictions, and continue enforcement of existing Phases I and II. This transition is proposed to improve the City's ability to respond effectively to the ongoing drought conditions, meet the goals of Mayor Eric Garcetti's Executive Directive No. 5, comply with recently adopted State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Emergency Water Conservation Regulations and avoid financial penalties that may be associated with noncompliance.

City Council concurrence is required according to Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is requested that the Board adopt the attached Resolution recommending the Mayor and City Council take action to consider a transition from Phase II to Phase III in the event that either Mayoral or SWRCB conservation mandates are not met on a monthly basis. Action to consider the transition to Phase III will be taken by the Mayor and City Council upon the first time a monthly target is not met during the drought emergency period.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Postpone action to recommend transition to Phase III until monthly conservation mandates are not met. This alternative may increase the risk of monetary fines associated with not achieving SWRCB mandated conservation targets.

BACKGROUND

Since 2013, the State of California has been experiencing one of the driest periods on record. In December 2013, Governor Jerry Brown formed a Drought Task Force consisting of four state agencies including the SWRCB. On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued a Statewide Drought Emergency declaration. As conditions worsened, on April 25, 2014, the Governor issued an Executive Order to redouble statewide drought actions calling for all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent, and for SWRCB to adopt emergency drought regulations.

On July 15, 2014, SWRCB approved Statewide Emergency Water Conservation Regulations, which were subsequently adopted by the California Office of Administrative Law on July 29, 2014. The current regulation requires water purveyors to implement an outdoor watering schedule of two days per week maximum, or an alternative measure that will produce an equivalent amount of water savings. To date Phase II of the City's Ordinance has fulfilled all of SWRCB's regulatory requirements.

On October 14, 2014, Mayor Garcetti issued ED5 calling on the City to increase water conservation in light of the drought. ED5 calls for a reduction in per capita potable water use by 20 percent by 2017, a reduction in LADWP's purchase of imported water by 50 percent by 2024, and the creation of an integrated water strategy that increases local water supplies. In ED5, Mayor Garcetti asks residents to heed the call for conservation by voluntarily decreasing outdoor watering to two days per week.

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order imposing the first ever statewide mandatory 25 percent water use restrictions due to the lowest state snowpack measurements in recorded history. The Governor's actions include enforcement requirements, expedited approvals for drought response actions, and investments in new water efficiency technologies.

On May 6, 2015, SWRCB approved modifications to the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations to implement the 25 percent statewide reduction of water use. SWRCB collects monthly data from water suppliers to assess their level of compliance with the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations. LADWP's target is 16 percent water reduction, which takes into account the historical water conservation achievements.

As of July 2015 the City must meet interim goals to comply with the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations and ED5. Historically, July, August, and September have

been the months in which customers exhibit the highest water consumption by volume. Additional water conservation will be needed to maintain compliance during these months.

CONDITIONAL TRANSITION TO PHASE III OF ORDINANCE

LADWP staff is closely monitoring water use and completing monthly reports to SWRCB. The City has met the first monthly goal in June 2015 for both the Mayor and SWRCB, but by a very narrow margin. Therefore, LADWP is recommending a transition from Phase II to Phase III of the Ordinance if either the Mayor or SWRCB monthly water use targets are not met. This action is recommended so that corrective action can be taken as early as possible due to the monetary fines associated with not achieving SWRCB mandates.

The proposed transition to Phase III of the Ordinance is intended to further increase Citywide water conservation to meet ED5 goals and state regulatory mandates. Phase III mandates two-day-a-week outdoor watering schedule, adds new watering restrictions, and maintains existing Phase I and II restrictions.

Phase III restrictions include the following:

- All prohibited uses applicable to Phase I and II.
- Adoption of two-day-a-week outdoor watering. Odd-numbered street addresses irrigate on Monday and Friday, and even-numbered street addresses irrigate on Sunday and Thursday.
- Watering times for Phase III are limited to:
 - Non-conserving nozzles (spray head sprinklers and bubblers) – no more than 8 minutes per watering day per station for a total of 16 minutes per week.
 - Conserving nozzles (standard rotors and multi-stream rotary heads) – no more than 15 minutes per cycle and up to 2 cycles per watering day per station for a total of 60 minutes per week.

With the above watering times, water consumption used for both types of nozzles is essentially equal.

- Recommended use of pool covers to decrease water loss from evaporation.
- Recommended washing of vehicles at commercial car wash facilities.
- Alternative means of compliance for sports fields, to deviate from the watering day schedule to maintain play areas and accommodate event structures.
- Alternative means of compliance for large landscape areas.
- Exemptions for drip irrigation or hand watering except between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Proposed Allowed Watering Days							
Phase	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
III	Odd Address			Even Address	Odd Address		Even Address

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), it has been determined that amending the Ordinance is exempt pursuant to the General Exemption described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3). General Exemptions apply in situations where it can be seen with reasonable certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

CITY ATTORNEY

The Office of the City Attorney reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form and legality.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance