

09-0369-55

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

JUN 09 2009

MOTION

On June 1st, 2009, Phase III of the Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance took effect throughout the City given the ongoing and severe drought situation. Phase III water use restrictions limit outdoor irrigation to two days a week - Mondays and Thursdays. This restriction applies to all residential and commercial properties within the City and is intended to achieve a 20% increase in water conservation.

Phase III also embodies other water use restrictions, such as prohibiting outdoor irrigation between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Additionally, the Phase restricts sprinkler use, during approved periods, to no more than 10 minutes per station. However, these provisions do not apply to hand-held hose watering of vegetation, if the hose is equipped with a self-closing water shut-off device, except between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Users of hand-held hoses can water their vegetation during any day of the week as long as they do not water between the high evaporation periods of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The justification for providing this exemption relates to the overall low level of water that hand-held hoses release.

The hand-held hose exemption option is a viable alternative to those residents that would like to maintain their vegetation, however disabled residents may not be able to utilize it. Those residents that are wheel-chair bound or may have limited use of their hands may need to rely on their sprinklers to maintain their gardens. In this case, the Department of Water and Power (DWP) should consider an exemption from outdoor water use restrictions for disabled residents that do not have the ability to use hand-held hoses.

In addition, the DWP should consider granting an exemption from water use restrictions to those City residents that reside in high fire severity zones. Sufficiently watering vegetation in these areas will result in mitigating fire danger inasmuch as dry brush provides fuel to developing fires. The DWP may consider this a public safety exemption.

I THEREFORE MOVE the Department of Water and Power (DWP) be directed to report to the Council in 30 days on the feasibility of exempting disabled residents, who can not use hand-held hoses with shut-off valves, from water use restrictions under the Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance.

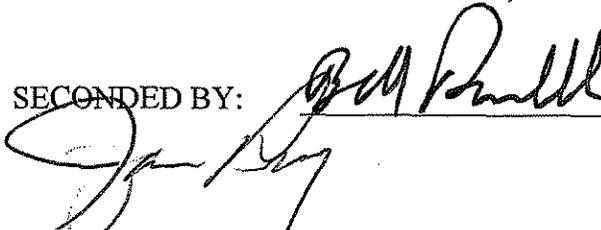
I FURTHER MOVE that the DWP also be directed to report to the Council in 30 days on the feasibility of exempting residential and commercial properties in high fire severity zones from water use restrictions under the Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance.

PRESENTED BY:



GREIG SMITH
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



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