



Press Release

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CHINO HILLS CITY COUNCIL DECLARES STAGE III HIGH WATER CONSERVATION ALERT IN RESPONSE TO RECORD-BREAKING DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Chino Hills, CA – In response to record-breaking drought conditions and the Governor’s Executive Order calling for an overall 20 to 30 percent reduction in water usage across California, the Chino Hills City Council has declared a Stage III High Conservation Alert effective June 1, 2022, in accordance with its Water Conservation Ordinance. The Stage III restrictions include all the restrictions in the City’s Stage II Alert which residents have been practicing since 2016, as well as a reduction of outdoor irrigation days from three to two days per week based on residential street address.

“Chino Hills residents have done a great job in becoming water efficient,” said Chino Hills Mayor Ray Marquez. “This is not new to our community. We’ve been here before in 2015 and our residents not only met the water reduction requirements but exceeded them. We are proud of our community’s efforts and appreciate the resident’s willingness to embrace necessary lifestyle changes to ensure our community is doing our part.”

Stage III is a High Conservation Water Alert and is declared when it is anticipated the water supply may be reduced by up to 25 percent per section 13.08.080 of the Chino Hills Municipal Code. California has been experiencing record-breaking drought conditions over the past three years. The last three months were recorded as the driest in the State’s history resulting in historically low State Water Project (SWP) deliveries from northern California to Metropolitan Water District (MWD), one of the City’s providers of imported water deliveries.

SWP on average provides 30 percent of southern California’s water. In March 2022, the Governor issued Executive Order N-7-22 directing the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to take additional steps to curtail water use. The DWR recently reduced the SWP allocation to 5 percent of all requested supplies for 2022. MWD announced it does not have enough water to meet the normal demands for the six million people living in SWP-dependent areas which include parts of Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties. MWD declared a water shortage emergency and implemented a new Emergency Water Conservation program calling on its customers, like the City of Chino Hills, to make necessary

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changes to reduce water usage by 30 percent and stretch the State's resources to prevent additional restrictions or cutbacks this year.

Under the Stage III Water Alert, residents and businesses are limited to two outdoor irrigation days per week and shall not exceed 15 minutes per watering station/zone, except for drip or micro-spray irrigation systems which shall not exceed 30 minutes per station. No outdoor irrigation is allowed between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Outdoor watering days are designated by address. Residential addresses ending in an even number may water outdoors on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Residential addresses ending in an odd number may water outdoors on Thursdays and Sundays. Non-residential addresses may water outdoors on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Stage III Water Alert outdoor irrigation requirements do not apply to construction projects or areas where recycled water flowing through purple pipes is used. Many of the City's parks in the southern part of Chino Hills are irrigated using recycled water so residents may see parks being irrigated on different days than those included in the Alert. City parks, facilities, and public spaces that are not irrigated using recycled water will be irrigated on a schedule in accordance with the new Stage III Water Alert.

Other provisions to the Stage III Water Alert include the same restrictions from the Stage II Alert including no hosing down driveways or sidewalks, timely repairs of water leaks within 48 hours of notification by City, and only operating water fountains at commercial properties if the water is part of a re-circulating system, like the systems in use at the City's water features at City Hall and English Springs Park. Vehicles, trailers, boats, and livestock can be washed with a bucket and a hand-held hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle for a quick rinse. Water may not run off or leak from landscaped areas to streets, sidewalks, or other paved areas due to incorrectly directed or maintained sprinklers, or overwatering. To view the full details of the Stage III Alert, visit www.chinohills.org/WaterAlert.

In response to the water supply emergency caused by the drought and the need to find additional solutions, the City of Chino Hills also took immediate action to increase our local water resources and collaborated with the State Water Resources Control Board to reactivate a City-owned well with the caveat that the arsenic would be removed. The City Council authorized emergency repairs to the well to remove the arsenic and the well is expected to be activated in July 2022. The local water supply will help provide relief from the shortage MWD is experiencing while simultaneously helping to meet their reduction requirements.

The City is proud to partner with our local water agencies to offer a variety of rebates and water saving programs for residents. Programs include a landscape efficiency consultation, and rebates for turf removal projects, a Flume device allowing residents to monitor their own water use, and a no-cost sprinkler timer upgrade that allows residents to remotely monitor their sprinkler systems. For more information on the Stage III Water Alert or on available rebates and water saving programs, please visit www.chinohills.org/WaterConservation or call the City's Water Use Efficiency Coordinator at (909) 364-2804.