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COUNCIL APPROVES NEW WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Violations punishable by \$1,000 fines

By Mina Riazi

At their study session Tuesday afternoon, City Council members approved the implementation of a modified version of Stage D of the City's emergency water conservation program in order to meet the state-mandated goal of a 36% reduction in water use.

"We are in a crisis situation with the drought and Beverly Hills is determined to meet the new water conservation goals," said Mayor Julian Gold in a statement. "We will evaluate our progress on a regular basis and make adjustments to our conservation program as needed. New technology as well as education will be a big part of the program because saving water is a long range as well as a short range goal."

The new conservation measures were

imposed in response to the severe statewide drought and a projected 15% cutback in water delivery from the Metropolitan Water District, which supplies 90% of the City's water.

The changes include limiting landscape watering to two days a week, rather than three. The City will also launch an outreach program to educate residents about the new restrictions and the ways that they can lessen their water usage.

"I do believe that we as a community need to lead and I don't believe we can ask residents and businesses to do something but we don't," said councilmember Lili Bosse.

Reduction of residential landscaping irrigation, which currently accounts for 60% to

70% of the City's annual water usage, will be a main focus moving forward.

The City's new water conservation requirements are listed below:

- Restaurants shall serve water upon request only.
- All public restrooms in the City and private bathrooms in hotels shall notify patrons and employees of water conservation goals.
- Plumbing and irrigation leaks shall be repaired as soon as practicable. The City may issue notices to repair visible leaks.
- Landscape irrigation shall be restricted to two days per week
- Existing swimming pools cannot be drained and refilled

• Exterior wash-down of buildings and wash-down of vehicles shall be prohibited, unless:

- The washing is done on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station or with reclaimed wastewater.
- The health, safety and welfare of the public are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleaning, such as the cleaning of garbage trucks and vehicles to transport food and perishables.
- Water usage from fire hydrants shall

be limited to firefighting, related activities or other activities necessary to maintain the public health, safety and welfare.

• Except for single-family and multi-family residential users in tier 1 who will remain in tier 1 for the next billing cycle, users shall reduce water usage to seventy percent (70%) of the amount in the baseline period as determined by the City council.

• Except for single-family and multi-family residential users in tier 1 during the current billing cycle, a tiered water penalty surcharge based on the cost of providing the higher volume of water will be established.

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-- Mayor Julian Gold

• Violation by any person of the mandatory requirements for outdoor watering shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Continued excessive use may result in termination of water supply through irrigation water services and/or restriction of water supply through domestic meters. The violation of each element, and each separate violation thereof, shall be deemed a separate offense, and shall be punished accordingly.