

## **Drought Update**

With California in the midst of an historic drought, and snow levels at the lowest level ever recorded, the Sunnyvale City Council on May 12 adopted a resolution declaring a 30 percent water reduction target through June 30, 2016. The Council expressed concern about continually depleting the groundwater supply and especially the threat of land subsidence in Santa Clara County, and took the following actions:

- Instituted a two-day watering schedule with odd addresses allowed to water on Mondays and Thursdays and even addresses allowed to water on Tuesdays and Fridays. (Drip irrigation is exempt from this schedule.)
- Prohibited outside irrigation within 48 hours of rainfall.
- Required hotels to offer patrons the option of not laundering linens on a daily basis.

The Council also approved the following enforcement actions:

- Imposed a \$250 citation for a third violation of water waste prohibitions.
- Imposed a \$500 citation thereafter for additional violations.

The Council also approved investment in the following programs:

- Additional outreach efforts including providing water reduction targets in water bills.
- A \$1 per square foot subsidy for the replacement of turf with drought resistant landscape to be combined with existing \$2 subsidies provided by the Santa Clara Valley Water District.
- A waiver for permits for gray water systems that reuse water from laundry and sinks for outside irrigation.
- Two temporary staff positions outreach and enforcement.

Council also directed staff to drain the Community Center Pond until such time that the drought is declared over.

These actions are all in addition to the existing prohibitions previously passed by Council which include:

- Serving water in restaurants except upon request.
- The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff.
- The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks.
- The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature unless the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Landscape irrigation between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Using a hose without a positive shutoff valve to water cars, buses, boats, or trailers.
- Water waste due to broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering, or irrigation systems.

For additional information visit: [www.save20gallons.org](http://www.save20gallons.org) or [www.waterconservation.insunnyvale.com](http://www.waterconservation.insunnyvale.com). Staff can be reached at 408-730-7900.