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Alameda County Water District Board of Directors Vote to Rescind Emergency Drought Ordinance and End Water Surcharges

Fremont, Calif. — The Alameda County Water District (ACWD) Board of Directors voted unanimously at its June 9 meeting to rescind the district's water shortage emergency ordinance and end the drought surcharges effective July 1.

Analyses by ACWD staff have projected the district will have sufficient water supplies for the next three years, even when factoring in potential dry years. Board members said the decision was possible because the district receives water from multiple sources, allowing flexibility in water supply planning and operations, and customers have embraced conservation measures and water-saving practices.

“We are happy to deliver on a promise that was made to our customers - we're rescinding the ordinance and surcharges because we're confident our current and near future water supplies will reliably serve the Tri-Cities,” said ACWD Board President Judy Huang. “Our customers have stepped up to our call for action and saved tremendous amounts of water since 2013,” she added. “Thank you.”

“The California drought has presented challenges for our agency and our customers,” added Director Paul Sethy. “But, from a water supply reliability perspective, things are looking up. We're not saying the statewide drought is over, but we are seeing the positive results of conservation, wise water-supply planning, and local precipitation and Sierra snowmelt to recharge our supplies.”

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Although the state has allowed water agencies to determine local conservation standards, some permanent statewide restrictions remain, including: prohibitions on using a hose to clean driveways or sidewalks; a ban on overwatering landscape that results in runoff; requiring restaurants to serve water only upon request; and a mandate that the hospitality industry offer optional laundering of sheets and towels.

“With the water shortage emergency ordinance rescinded, let us not forget that droughts are cyclical,” said Huang. “Let’s continue conservation, water-wise gardening, and our water-saving habits.”

For more information about statewide conservation regulations, please visit the State Water Resources Control Board at www.waterboards.ca.gov/<<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>>.

For more information about ACWD, conservation programs and incentives, please visit www.acwd.org <<http://www.acwd.org>>.

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For 100 years, the Alameda County Water District has supplied water to the residents and businesses of southern Alameda County. ACWD supplies drinking water to the more than 344,000 people living in the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City.