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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vallecitos Board Declares Level 2 Drought Alert

California's drought, which seemed to be retreating after soaking storms in both October and December, is now all but certain to continue into a third year after the driest January and February in recorded history. The record-breaking dry period and the absence of significant rains in March have required the State Department of Water Resources to reduce anticipated deliveries from the State Water Project to 5 percent of requested supplies. While the state continues to take necessary actions to help extend the state's existing water supply, state agencies are asking all Californians to do their part now to conserve as much water as possible to make it last.

To comply with Governor Newsom's executive order N-7-22, the Vallecitos Water District Board of Directors voted to move to a Level 2 Drought Alert at their regular meeting yesterday.

The new drought level will prompt mandatory water-use restrictions for all Vallecitos customers starting today and into the foreseeable future. This action will help San Diego County keep as much water as possible in storage. It will also help California.

As detailed in the District's Board-approved drought ordinance and Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the mandatory conservation actions for Level 2 Drought Alert include:

- (1) Residential and commercial landscape irrigation is limited to no more than three assigned days per week from June through October and no more than two days per week, from November through May, on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the District. This shall not apply to commercial growers, agricultural water accounts or nurseries.***

Vallecitos will allow customers to choose their own two days to irrigate each week through the end of May.

The Drought Alert also serves as a good reminder of prohibited wasteful practices within the Vallecitos service area, such as:

- Irrigating between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Irrigating within 48 hours of a measurable rain event
- Visible signs of runoff when irrigating landscapes
- Hosing down hardscapes (patios, driveways, sidewalks, etc.)
- Not using a shut-off nozzle when washing cars
- Not fixing leaks within 48 hours of discovery

Commercial customers must also comply with the following requirements:

- Restaurants only serve water on request
- Hotels provide the option of not laundering linens and towels daily

Vallecitos has sufficient water supplies for its customers, even if drought conditions persist. This is due largely to the fact that Vallecitos now receives a portion of its water directly from the Carlsbad Desalination Plant, which is a local, drought-resilient supply.

For more information on drought regulations and conservation programs available to assist customers in their conservation efforts, go to www.vwd.org/drought or call the District at (760) 744-0460.

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About Vallecitos Water District: *As an independent, special district, Vallecitos is dedicated to providing water, wastewater, and reclamation services to over 105,000 people in a 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; portions of Carlsbad, Escondido, and Vista; and other surrounding unincorporated areas.*