

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA IMPLEMENTING A STAGE TWO WATER SHORTAGE ALERT PURSUANT TO STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0018, ADOPTING DROUGHT-RELATED EMERGENCY REGULATION FOR WATER CONSERVATION IN RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 19-021

WHEREAS, climate change continues to intensify the impacts of droughts on California's communities, environment, and economy, and the state is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, following below average rainfall in five out of six years since 2011, resulting in drought conditions in all parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara water customers, having truly invested in "conservation as a way of life" have reduced water demands by 25 percent as compared to 2013 demands, which, in conjunction the City's prudent water supply management and the operation of the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant, has contributed to the City having sufficient water supplies to meet demands, even under continued dry conditions, through the end of Water Year 2024 (September 2024); and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2022, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 directing the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to consider adoption of emergency regulations that, among other things, include a requirement that each urban water supplier that has submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, the shortage response actions adopted under section 10632 of the Water Code for a shortage level of up to twenty percent (Level 2), by a date to be set by the Water Board; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2022, the Water Board adopted Drought-Related Emergency Regulation for Water Conservation, which, among other things, directs urban water suppliers that have adopted water shortage contingency plans to implement all Level 2 demand reduction measures identified in the supplier's water shortage contingency plan for a shortage level of 10 to 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Water Board's emergency regulations also include a prohibition of the irrigation of "non-functional turf" at commercial, industrial, and institutional sites, enforceable by the Water Board, where non-functional turf is defined as turf that is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2021 Water Shortage Contingency Plan, adopted on June 28, 2021 and included as Appendix K to the City's 2020 Enhanced Urban Water Management Plan, defines a Stage 2 Water Shortage Condition as a Water Shortage Alert that corresponds to the 10 to 20 percent shortage condition (Level 2) specified in the Water Board's Drought-Related Emergency Regulation for Water Conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. As required by the Water Board's Drought-Related Emergency Regulation for Water Conservation, City staff are directed to implement all Level 2 demand reduction actions identified in the City of Santa Barbara 2021 Water Shortage Contingency Plan adopted June 28, 2021, under Water Code 10632.

SECTION 2. Priority implementation and enforcement shall be given to the following prohibited unreasonable and wasteful uses of water:

a. Use of water through a hose or outdoor faucet unless the water is delivered by use of a self-closing valve or shut-off nozzle that requires operator pressure to activate the flow of water.

b. Washing motor vehicles or boats except at commercial car washing facilities equipped with water recycling equipment, or by use of a hose that has use a self-closing valve or shut-off nozzle that requires operator pressure to activate the flow of water.

c. The use of running potable water from a hose, pipe, or faucet for the purpose of cleaning sidewalks, driveways, buildings, structures, patios, parking lots, or other hard surfaced areas.

Exceptions:

i. Use as a part of preventive maintenance of buildings and other facilities if accomplished by means of a pressure washer, defined herein to be equipment that boosts incoming water pressure for the purpose of enhancing cleaning capability and minimizing the amount of water used.

ii. Use when it is the only feasible means of correcting a potential threat to health and safety, provided it is accomplished by use of a pressure washer, mop, bucket, brush, and/or other tools to limit the use of running water to the minimum necessary.

d. Irrigation by use of an automatically or manually controlled in-ground irrigation system except between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Irrigation by hand-held hose is not subject to time of day watering, but is subject to the shut-off nozzle provision of Section 2.a.

SECTION 3. Violations of this resolution are enforceable as provided in Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 14.20.

SECTION 4. Resolution No. 19-021 is repealed.