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LOS BANOS RESTRICTS IRRIGATION SCHEDULES TO TWICE A WEEK TO MEET STATE'S 20% WATER CONSERVATION GOAL

LOS BANOS, CA – On July 28, 2014, the State of California Office of Administrative Law issued a notice of approval of emergency regulatory action which set further goals and restrictions on the State's drought emergency 20% water conservation goal.

This action addresses the severe impacts on California's water supplies and its ability to meet all water demands in the State due to the current drought.

The City, in an attempt to meet the 20% conservation goal, adopted an Urgency Ordinance on August 6, 2014, which limited landscape irrigation to twice a week.

Properties with even numbered addresses are restricted to outdoor irrigation on Sundays and Wednesdays, while properties with odd numbered addresses are restricted to outdoor irrigation on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Irrigation of lawns and landscaping is prohibited between the hours of 11:00am and 7:00pm on any day of the week. Watering would not be allowed on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. This schedule is effective immediately and it is year round.

Calendar year 2013 was the driest year in recorded history for many areas of California and water conservation is more important than ever.

"Our community and all of California is faced with a water crisis", said Mayor Michael Villalta. "Our citizens need to come together to meet the Governor's 20% water use reduction. In order to attempt to keep the City's water supply healthy, every citizen needs to do their part, including limiting their irrigation to twice a week."

Conservation measures are listed on the City's website, as well as the States 'Save our Water' website.

"Efforts to conserve 20% water use in Los Banos have not met the goal. In order to conform to State law, and further attempt to achieve the 20% goal, the City has restricted outdoor landscaping irrigation to twice a week. The previous measures which included using water saving shut off nozzles, using a broom to clean concrete surfaces, fixing leaks and drips promptly, restricting indoor water use still need to be practiced by everyone," said Los Banos Public Works Director Mark Fachin. "The enforcement of water wasting warnings and fines will be increased in an effort to meet the water conservation goal."

If citizens need assistance in setting their sprinkler timers or if they would like a water audit done on their service, please contact the Public Works Department at 827-7056 to set up an appointment. These services are done free of charge.

Additional information is available at www.losbanos.org, Public Works Department.