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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Calleguas Municipal Water District Adopts Emergency Conservation Measures to Limit Outdoor Water Use**

*Mandatory outdoor water use restrictions are required to extend limited State Water Project supplies*

At its April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) Board of Directors, on a 4 to 1 vote, declared a Water Shortage Emergency Condition and adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) to reduce non-essential uses of water to preserve limited water supplies for the remainder of the year. The EWCP effectively limits all outdoor water use to just one-day-per-week.

California just recorded its driest January through March on record, entering a third consecutive year of extreme drought. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Water Resources, operator of the State Water Project (SWP), announced that water agencies throughout California should prepare for only 5 percent of a full supply for 2022. With limited local sources of water, the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) service area depends heavily on imported water from the SWP purchased through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). In response to the deepening drought and anticipation of the Water Shortage Emergency Condition declaration, the Calleguas Board implemented Stage 3 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan on April 6.

MWD's service area includes most of Southern California, from Ventura County to San Diego County and east to Riverside and San Bernardino counties. While MWD imports water from both the SWP and the Colorado River, portions of its service area are unable to receive much Colorado River supply due to system constraints and are therefore considered SWP-dependent areas. MWD's SWP-dependent Member Agencies include Calleguas, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, the City of Burbank, and portions of the San

Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire. Together these SWP-dependent agencies serve 6.6 million of the total 19 million people in MWD's service area.

With only 5 percent of its SWP allocation, MWD has determined there are insufficient supplies to meet current demands for water in the SWP-dependent portions of its service area. Therefore, on April 26<sup>th</sup>, MWD's Board adopted its own Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP).

The program requires that SWP-dependent agencies, including Calleguas, to immediately cut water use by implementing one-day-a-week watering restrictions, or the equivalent, by June 1. Water agencies in the SWP-dependent areas may also select an alternative path that sets volumetric limits on the amount of water used. Agencies that do not enforce one-day-a-week watering restrictions or exceed their volumetric limits would face financial penalties.

"The measures we are taking now are needed as the climate is changing faster and in unexpected ways in terms of hydrology and the effect of temperature on snowpack," stated General Manager Anthony Goff. "The quickest to save water will be immediately limiting outdoor water use to just one-day-per-week."

Should water demands continue to exceed projected supplies, the EWCP will prohibit the use of potable water for any outdoor watering to preserve water for essential human health and safety needs only (i.e., indoor use).

"We are now in a situation where we have no other choice but to impose mandatory watering restrictions," stated Calleguas Board President Steve Blois. "We need to work together this summer to save every drop of water we have and only irrigate in ways that save the urban canopy and preserve our parks, school fields, and other functional turf areas that retain high value for our communities. To do this – we must let our own residential lawns go brown and prohibit the irrigation of non-functional turf."

Calleguas currently offers a Turf Replacement Rebate Program for removal of turfgrass. During the drought emergency, residents and businesses can still take advantage of the program and postpone new plantings until watering restrictions are lifted. Please check with your local water provider for specific watering restrictions and limitations.

For more information on the Turf Replacement Rebate Program, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) to learn more.

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***Calleguas is one of twenty-six member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California providing water service to three quarters of Ventura County's population. Through 19 retail water agencies, Calleguas provides water to the cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Camarillo, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and surrounding unincorporated areas including Oak Park, Santa Rosa Valley, Las Posas Valley, Somis, and Naval Base Ventura County.***