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For Immediate Release

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Contact: Nancy Broschart, 805-223-4378

Lysa Urban, 805-677-3914

Ventura Declares Water Shortage Emergency

The Ventura City Council declared a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency yesterday as local water supplies continue to drop during the third year of California's historic drought. To achieve a 20% water use reduction as mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board, Ventura Water customers are now required to limit outdoor watering through a sprinkler irrigation system to two days a week and not water between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. These new restrictions are in addition to the following current water waste prohibitions:

Sprinklers that spray pavement, such as sidewalks, driveways or streets

Irrigation water that runs onto pavement, such as sidewalks, driveways or streets

Leaking irrigation systems or broken sprinklers that are not repaired within 48 hours of discovery

Using a hose to wash a driveway, sidewalk or other paved surface

Washing a car without a shutoff nozzle on the hose

Serving water at a restaurant without being requested by the customer

"We believe that limiting outdoor watering to two days a week is essential to reaching a 20% water use reduction goal," said Mayor Cheryl Heitmann. "Our community has historically been very responsive during drought cycles and we are confident that Ventura residents will continue to work together successfully to save water during this emergency."

The newest restrictions follow the recommendations of the city's Water Shortage Task Force. The group has been conducting public meetings since August to consider water conservation options for the community to meet State requirements and dwindling water supplies. The City Council also confirmed the Task Force's preference to retain the current penalty structure for noncompliance of the water prohibitions, which carries a fine of \$25 and \$50 for the third and fourth offense. For more information, visit www.cityofventura.net/water/shortage.

Ventura Water is helping residential customers find ways to save water by offering free on-site water surveys. To schedule a water survey, contact Ventura Water Customer Care at myvtawater@cityofventura.net or (805) 667-6500. Customers can also learn more about outdoor water efficiencies by attending our free Water Wise classes. Register online at www.cityofventura.net/water/landscape.

This release can be found on the City of Ventura's website at www.cityofventura.net. ###