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*For Immediate Release*

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### City of Ventura Calls for 10% Voluntary Water Reduction

In response to historic dry conditions, Ventura Water (City of Ventura) joins many communities across California by requesting customers to begin voluntarily reducing their water use by at least 10%. Shana Epstein, Ventura Water's General Manager, will call for the reduction and ask for the Ventura City Council's support at their February 3 meeting. As one of the largest cities in California that relies exclusively on local water sources, Ventura will join other communities in conserving water as directed by Governor Brown's recent state-wide proclamation of a water shortage emergency.

"Ventura River water levels are very low and Lake Casitas, another of our primary water sources, is at 60% capacity," said Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann. "It is a sensible step to reduce water use now by raising awareness of the need to conserve water. Our community met this challenge during the 1990s drought and we expect Ventura to once again be an outstanding partner in preserving our water supplies."

The city's third water supply is groundwater with a number of wells currently undergoing urgent maintenance, which is limiting management options. One replacement well is in construction but is not expected to be operational until the summer.

Supplies will be closely monitored over the coming months and Ventura Water will be returning to the City Council with an action plan in June if further restrictions are necessary. Officials from the Casitas Municipal Water District have alerted the city that if the levels in Lake Casitas drop to 50% then they will issue water allocations. Without rain, this may occur as soon as August or September.

"In an allocation situation, we expect that Council will declare a water shortage emergency and enact more stringent conservation measures," said Epstein. "Of course, anything that our customers can do to reduce their water use now will help Ventura's supplies in the long run."

An average Ventura residential household uses approximately 21 hundred cubic feet (hcf) or 15,708 gallons every two months. A 10% reduction equals 1,570 gallons bi-monthly or 785 gallons per month. Ventura Water offers these suggestions to residential customers to reduce water use:

Check for leaks indoors and outdoors. One leaking toilet can waste between 300 to 60,000 gallons per month and even a slow drip from a faucet can use 450 gallons per month. There are many variables to how much water can be wasted due to leaks in irrigation systems, but it is possible to lose 225 gallons in a 15-minute watering cycle from a leak close to a sprinkler head.

Review your water consumption history and use the Home Water Works Water Calculator ([www.home-water-works.org/calculator](http://www.home-water-works.org/calculator)) to analyze your water use and receive practical information to help reduce use.

Ventura Water, a City of Ventura organization, provides integrated water, wastewater and stormwater services to 113,000+ customers with 32,000 service connections. Ventura's drinking water sources are all local and its water reclamation facility treats between eight and nine million gallons from homes and businesses daily.

This release can be found on the City of Ventura's website at [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net). ---###---