



# Press Release

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14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709

**CONTACT:** Nicole Freeman  
Ph: (909) 364-2609

Valerie McClung  
Ph: (909) 364-2618

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## **CITY OF CHINO HILLS STATEMENT REGARDING THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S WATER CONSERVATION EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Chino Hills, CA – The City of Chino Hills has been closely monitoring the policy recommendations by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and potential impacts to our residents. MWD reported that California has been experiencing record-breaking drought conditions over the past three years, and the last three months were recorded as the driest in the State's history. These impacts have resulted in historically low State Water Project (SWP) deliveries from northern California to MWD.

SWP on average provides 30 percent of southern California's water. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) reduced the SWP allocation to 5 percent of all requested supplies for 2022. DWR previously set the allocation at 15 percent but due to the historically dry conditions reduced the allocation. The Governor issued an Executive Order calling for urban water retailers to implement actions to achieve nearly a 30 percent reduction in water usage from previous years. MWD announced it does not have enough water to meet the normal demands for the six million people living in SWP-dependent areas which include parts of Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties.

MWD has declared a water shortage emergency and implemented a new Emergency Water Conservation Program. The program includes two pathways for member agencies and its customers to drastically reduce water-use. The City of Chino Hills is a customer of MWD and must meet the requirements of their water restrictions in one of the two ways. The first pathway is limiting outdoor irrigation to one day a week in SWP-dependent areas. The second pathway allows the City to comply with monthly allocation limits based on remaining MWD storage, drought actions, and Human Health and Safety water provided by the DWR.

The second pathway is the framework in which the City of Chino Hills will be following. This pathway will result in real water savings for the region. These efforts align with MWD's goal for all southern Californian residents and businesses to save 30 percent and stretch the State's resources to prevent additional restrictions or cutbacks this year. The City acknowledges that the drought is very real, but the MWD regulation of irrigation only allowed one day per week does not apply to the City of Chino Hills at this time.

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In response to the water supply emergency caused by the drought and the need to find additional solutions, the City of Chino Hills took immediate action to increase our local water resources and collaborated with the State Water Resources Control Board to reactivate a City-owned well with the caveat that the arsenic would be removed. The City Council authorized emergency repairs to the well to remove the arsenic and the well is expected to be activated in July 2022. The local water supply will help provide relief from the shortage MWD is experiencing while simultaneously meeting their reduction requirements.

The City of Chino Hills has been under a Stage II Moderate Conservation Alert level with watering restrictions since July 2016 and Chino Hills customers have made great progress in becoming water efficient. At a future City Council Meeting, the Chino Hills City Council will discuss additional water conservation measures to ensure the City is doing our part to protect this precious resource. The City Council will consider moving from a Stage II Alert, where three days of outdoor irrigation are allowed, to a Stage III Alert, where only two days of outdoor irrigation are allowed.

In addition to implementing its own conservation methods, the City along with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), which is the City's MWD member agency, and other local agencies have been collaborating with MWD to develop options for conservation measures to stretch the available DWR SWP supplies as much as possible. In December 2021, IEUA's Board also took action to activate IEUA's Water Shortage Contingency Plan at Level 2, up to a 20 percent shortage, with a focus on reducing the use of SWP supplies in our region. For more information on the City's water conservation efforts, please visit [www.chinohills.org/WaterConservation](http://www.chinohills.org/WaterConservation).