



Media Contact:

Kimy Wall | 951-296-6933 | walk@ranchowater.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rancho Water Moves to Stage 2 of Water Shortage Contingency Plan

District encourages movement towards a culture of conservation

Temecula, Calif. – Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water/District) has moved to a lower level of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan) following a wet winter which alleviated drought conditions across much of California. On May 18, 2023, the District's Board of Directors voted to move to Stage 2, which is considered a water supply alert.

Rancho Water previously moved to Stage 3b of the Plan in January 2022. Movement to Stage 3b was in response to the statewide drought emergency caused by several years of increasingly severe drought conditions and the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of the Drought Conservation Emergency Regulation. The primary focus of this move was on outreach and water efficiency education. Stage 3b also decreased inefficient water budgets by 50 percent and did not allow for variances to fill pools or establish landscape.

With the move to Stage 2, variances for filling swimming pools and establishing or expanding landscapes are once again allowed. In addition, water budgets for all tiers have been restored to 100 percent.

"During the emergency drought conditions, Rancho Water proactively enacted a balanced approach, reducing inefficient budgets to curtail excessive water usage but primarily

focusing on long-term water saving projects through community engagement efforts,” said Robert Grantham, Rancho Water General Manager. “The District worked with our customers to conserve water without the need for penalties or fines.”

Some actions which provide water use and customer cost savings remain in place. These include irrigating landscape only between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., not irrigating during rainfall or up to 48 hours after measurable rainfall, and requiring a hose to be fitted with a shutoff nozzle when washing motor vehicles. A full list of water conservation [requirements can be found here](#).

Rancho Water encourages its customers to continue to do their part to save precious water resources through practical conservation measures. Though California reservoirs have benefited from the recent rainfall, the Colorado River, which supplies a substantial portion of Rancho Water’s imported water supplies, is still facing drought conditions. Recently, Arizona, California, and Nevada reached a compromise to conserve approximately three million acre-feet of water by 2026, thereby increasing the importance of water savings for those that rely on the critical water supply from the Colorado River.

For more information about the water supply alert, current water conditions, and suggestions on what can be done to save water, visit RanchoWater.com/WaterHero.

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About Rancho California Water District: *The mission of Rancho Water is to deliver reliable, high-quality water, wastewater, and reclamation services to its customers and communities in a prudent and sustainable manner. Rancho Water is a local, independent Special District, organized on August 16, 1965, servicing approximately 150 square miles and more than 46,000 service connections in Temecula, Murrieta, and parts of unincorporated Riverside County.*



Rancho Water | 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula, CA 92590

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