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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **VID LOWERS TIER 3 WATER RATE**

*Tier 3 water rate reduced from \$4.83 to \$3.85 per unit due to customers' conservation efforts.*

Vista, CA—

At their August 5 meeting, the Vista Irrigation District (VID) board of directors lowered the tier 3 water usage charge in response to the extraordinary water conservation efforts of its customers.

On July 15, 2009, the board of directors approved the implementation of a three-tiered water rate structure in order to promote water conservation among the district's customers, particularly during the current region-wide water shortages and mandatory cutbacks. Upon approving the water rate structure, the board requested further analysis related to the Tier 3 water usage charge based on current conservation levels. After reviewing the most recent water use data, it was determined that a reduction in the tier 3 rate from \$4.83 to \$3.85 per unit was appropriate based on current conditions.

For the 12 months ended July 31, 2009, the district's estimated water conservation was just over 10%. On June 1, the VID implemented mandatory water conservation measures as set forth in level 2 of its Drought Response Conservation Program to assist the district with meeting the San Diego County Water Authority's (Water Authority) mandatory water use reduction requirement of 8%. The district must reduce its water demand by 8% for the year ending June 30, 2010 in order to avoid paying penalties to the Water Authority.

Currently, VID customers pay a flat rate of \$2.34 per unit (748 gallons) for all water consumed. Under the new three-tiered water rate structure, effective September 1, 2009, water used in tier 1 will cost \$2.34 per unit; water used in tier 2 will cost \$2.88 per unit; and water used in tier 3 will cost \$3.85 per unit. The water use thresholds for each tier vary based on meter size, with larger meters receiving greater allotments per tier.

A typical customer within VID uses 20 units of water per month and has a 3/4 inch water meter. If a typical customer reduces monthly usage by 10% or 2 units, the net monthly increase utilizing the new rates and charges will be \$5.24 or a 7.2% increase. Tier 3 affects only the largest water users—those that use more than 3 times the average usage for their meter size, or more than 60 units per month for a typical customer.

The Vista Irrigation District is a public agency governed by an elected five-member board. The district provides water service to more than 123,000 people in the city of Vista, and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, and unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

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