



1391 Engineer Street, Vista, CA 92081-8836

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Brett Hodgkiss  
Phone: 760-597-3162  
Fax: 760-598-8757

### **VID BOARD CONSIDERS CHANGES TO DROUGHT RESPONSE CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

*Board will discuss amendments to the Drought Response Conservation Program that would permit watering days to remain 3 days per week during the upcoming winter months.*

Vista, CA—

The Vista Irrigation District (VID) board of directors will hold a public hearing on October 7, 2009 at 8:30 AM to receive comments concerning the amendments to the district's Drought Response Conservation Program.

The board will consider amending the district's Drought Response Conservation Program to provide for greater flexibility in administering the program based on required conservation targets and customer efforts in meeting those targets. One of the changes would result in assigned watering days remaining at three (3) days per week during the upcoming winter months rather than moving to one (1) assigned day per week as currently required under a Level 2 Drought Alert condition. The board will also consider moving restrictions on the operation of ornamental fountains and decorative water features from level 2, Drought Alert, to level 3, Drought Critical, and clarify the types of fountains and water features that may not be operated.

"Because of the outstanding conservation efforts by our customers, the Vista Irrigation District does not need to implement more restrictive water conservation measures at this time despite the continuing water shortage," said general manager Roy Coox. "We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication by our customers and are asking them to continue to use water efficiently so we can meet our conservation targets without increasing water use restrictions."

For the 12 months ended August 31, 2009, the district's estimated water conservation was 11.5%. On June 1, 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.

VID's Drought Response Conservation Program, comprised of four levels, addresses the conditions under which water use restrictions are required. As water supply conditions become more critical, the call for conservation measures increases. These conservation measures apply to all VID customers, including homeowners and businesses. The four levels of conservation are tied to cutbacks in water supply which are declared by the region's water wholesalers, the Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

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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