

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 5, 2016

The State of California is currently in its fifth year of one of the most severe droughts on record. In January 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages.

Los Angeles County has already begun to prepare for the reality of prolonged and recurring future droughts that will be exacerbated by hotter weather, longer Santa Ana wind seasons, and more intense wildfires. The County's efforts include reducing water use in County facilities and operations, requiring drought tolerant landscaping, using recycled water and offering rebate and incentive programs through our water districts.

Water is an essential natural resource, and, in order to ensure future availability and access, we must adopt sustainable strategies, especially when any future water supply is uncertain due to climate change, and the demand for water only increases with population growth. As the unincorporated County communities continue to develop and welcome new growth to the region, we must consider strategies that take water

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conservation even further by minimizing any increase in overall water demand and consumption. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, and is traditionally achieved by the adoption of a combination of water conservation measures, as well as offsetting water demand through water savings elsewhere within the region.

The County's goal for water sustainability should be no net increase in total water consumption. This concept, called "net zero water" or "water neutral development," commonly relies on a regional approach to reducing water consumption by a combination of options including, but not limited to, water efficiency measures, alternate onsite water sources (e.g., gray, black, foundation and rain waters), regional recycled water systems, additional groundwater rights, and in-lieu offsite water conservation projects.

With recent advancements in treatment technologies, alternate onsite water resources can be efficiently used for various residential and industrial applications such as irrigation, toilet flushing, decorative fountains, dust control, cooling applications, and other non-potable uses.

Several local governments and districts throughout the State (San Luis Obispo County, Santa Monica, Oxnard, St. Helena, Santa Barbara, Morro Bay, Napa, Lompoc, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Cambia Community Services District, etc.) have already anticipated future water demand and implemented water neutral policies. If new development is unable to attain net zero water consumption, a project developer is required to offset remaining water demand by providing water savings offsite equivalent to the project's expected consumption. It is important that this policy apply to both public and private development projects.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with representatives from the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Public Works, the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, Internal Services Department, and any other relevant departments, to draft a net zero water ordinance for all new development and substantial renovations that applies to both public and private development; evaluate various existing net zero water policies, existing technologies, and the financial impact and required resources to implement a net zero water policy in Los Angeles County; meet, as appropriate, with the Sustainability Council and a development committee, comprised of representatives of all five supervisorial districts, as well as other stakeholders; and report back with a proposed ordinance and guidelines for implementation within one year.

S:KY/NetZero Water Study