

# Additional Water Conservation Measures in Response to the Continued Drought

**Help make our water supply last**



**City Council Meeting  
June 23, 2015**

# Four Items for Consideration



- 1. Amendments to outdoor irrigation limitations**
- 2. Revisions to Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan language regarding penalties for excessive water use**
- 3. Implementation of seasonal water use allocations**
- 4. Implementation of fines for violations of water use prohibitions and penalties for excessive water use**

# Amended outdoor irrigation limitation



- **Recommend limitations on outdoor irrigation of lawns and other areas only apply to sprinkler irrigation systems**
- **Selective hand-watering of individual plants, potted plants, and hanging plants is proposed to not be restricted**
- **Recommend that watering by sprinkler system be restricted to two specific days per week, by geographic location, and between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am**

# Watering by days of the week



## Days to water using sprinkler systems:

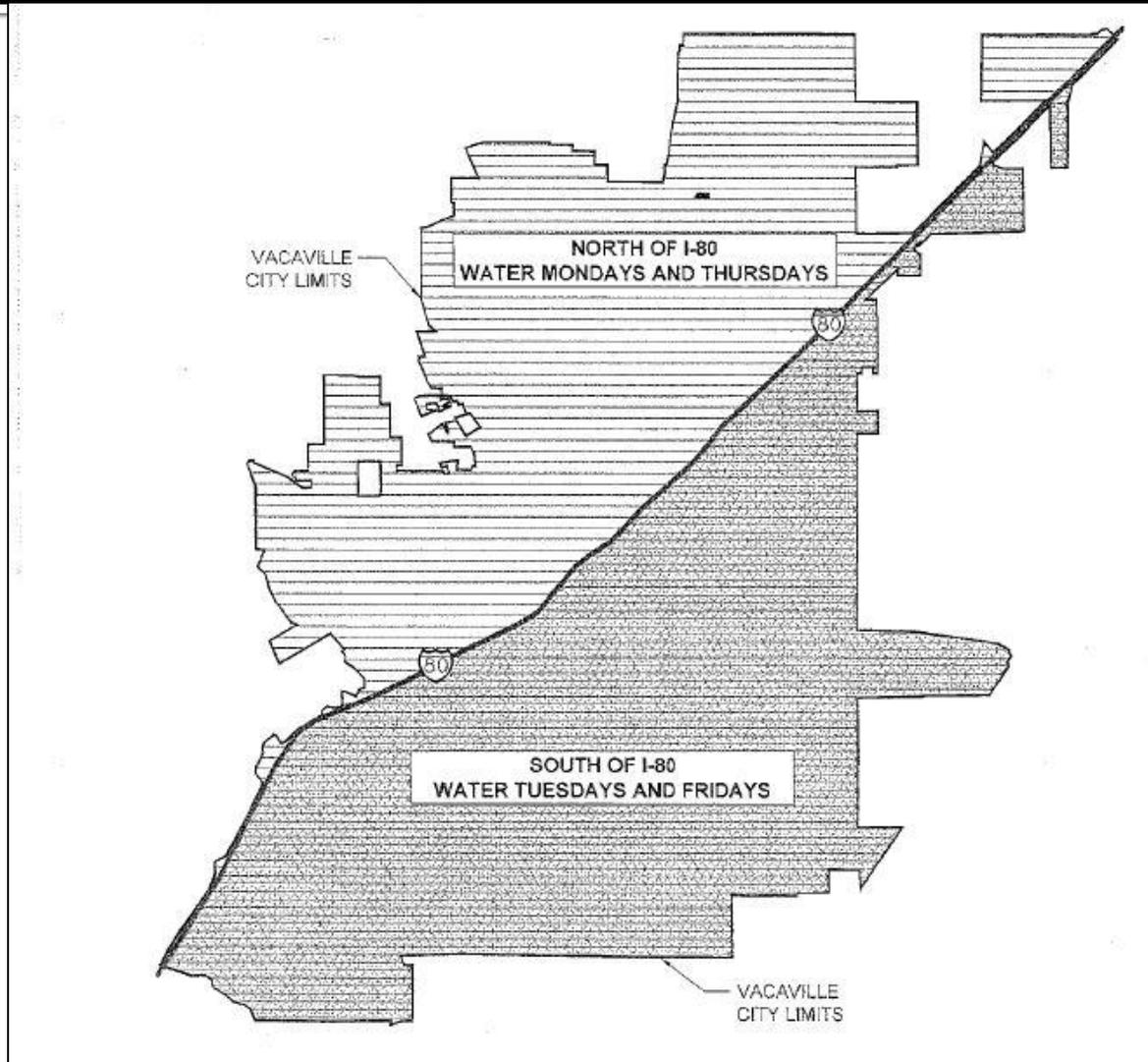
**Residential north of I-80: Mondays and Thursdays**

**Residential south of I-80: Tuesdays and Fridays**

**Commercial/Industrial: Wednesdays and Saturdays**

**Institutional/Parks: Two days per week without specified days**

# Residential watering days for sprinklers



# What is or is not restricted?



# What are others doing?



<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Outdoor Watering Restrictions</u>
Benicia	27,000	20%	3 days/week; no watering from 8 AM to 7 PM
Elk Grove	161,000	28%	2 days/week; no watering from 6 AM to 8 PM
Fairfield	109,000	20%	3 days/week; no watering from 12 PM to 6 PM
Folsom	73,000	32%	2 days/week; no watering from 10 AM to 10 PM
Lincoln	45,000	32%	2 days/week; no watering from 8 AM to 9 PM
Lodi	63,000	32%	2 days/week; no watering from 10 AM to 6 PM
Roseville	127,000	28%	2 days/week; no watering from 10 AM to 8 PM
Vacaville	88,000	32%	2 days/week; no watering from 8 AM to 8 PM

- **Elk Grove - two water providers with 6 AM and 10 AM restrictions**
- **Roseville - 1 day/week during non-summer months**

# Language Revisions to UWSCP



- **Necessary to implement excessive water use penalties**
- **Penalty system adopted in 1991 is difficult to apply in finance billing system**
- **Complicated mathematical formula**
- **Results in very large penalties for excessive water use**
- **Recommend simpler formula, with straight 25% penalty on variable water use when water allocation is exceeded**

# Example



**A customer uses 80 units of water during a billing period when 48 units is allowed:**

- **Variable portion of water bill is (12 units x \$1.24/unit) + (68 units x \$1.70/unit) = \$130.48**
- **Under the revised penalty system, penalty is \$130.48 x 25% = \$32.62**
- **Under the old penalty system, the penalty would have been \$221.82**

# Residential Seasonal Allocations



# Residential Seasonal Allocations



- **Single-family base residential allocation is set by winter water use, when landscape irrigation is at its lowest**
- **60 gallons per person per day is a reasonable winter water use (State recommends 55 gpcd)**
- **A family of five would use 300 gallons per day in the winter months (12 units/month)**
- **Multi-family residential allocation would be 8 units/month (70% of single-family allocation)**

# Residential Seasonal Allocations



- **Allocations are proposed to be increased seasonally for landscape irrigation**
- **Additional allocations of 2 units/person/month may be granted for larger households (up to a maximum of eight people per household)**
- **Additional allocations may be made for severe medical conditions requiring higher water use**
- **Exceeding the allocation would result in a penalty for excessive water use on the utility bill**

# Residential Seasonal Allocations



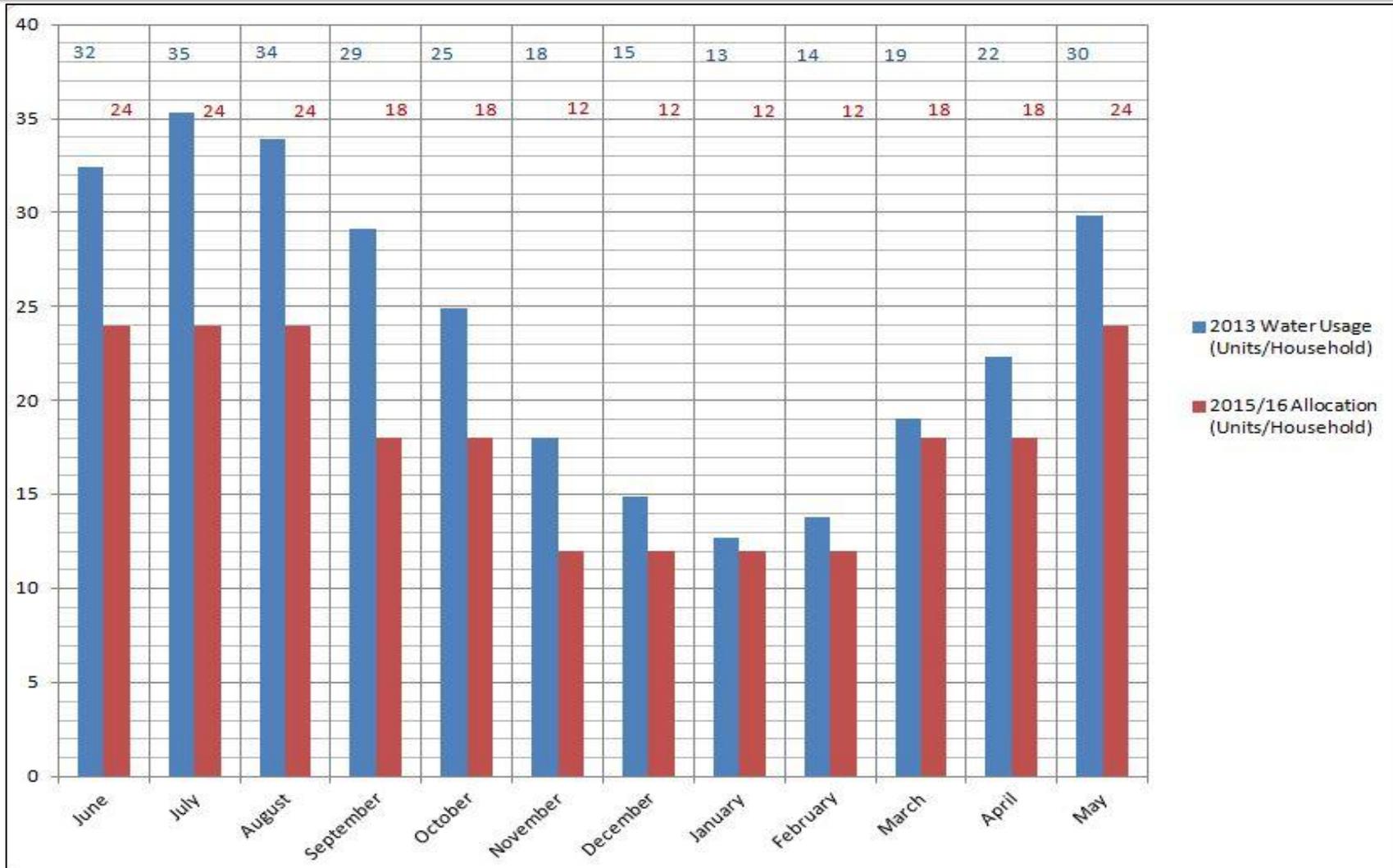
- **Winter (Nov-Feb) 12 units/household/month**
- **Spring (Mar-Apr) 18 units/household/month**
- **Summer (May-Aug) 24 units/household /month**
- **Fall (Sept-Oct) 18 units/household/month**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
UNITS	12	12	18	18	24	24	24	24	18	18	12	12
GHPD	300	300	450	450	600	600	600	600	450	450	300	300

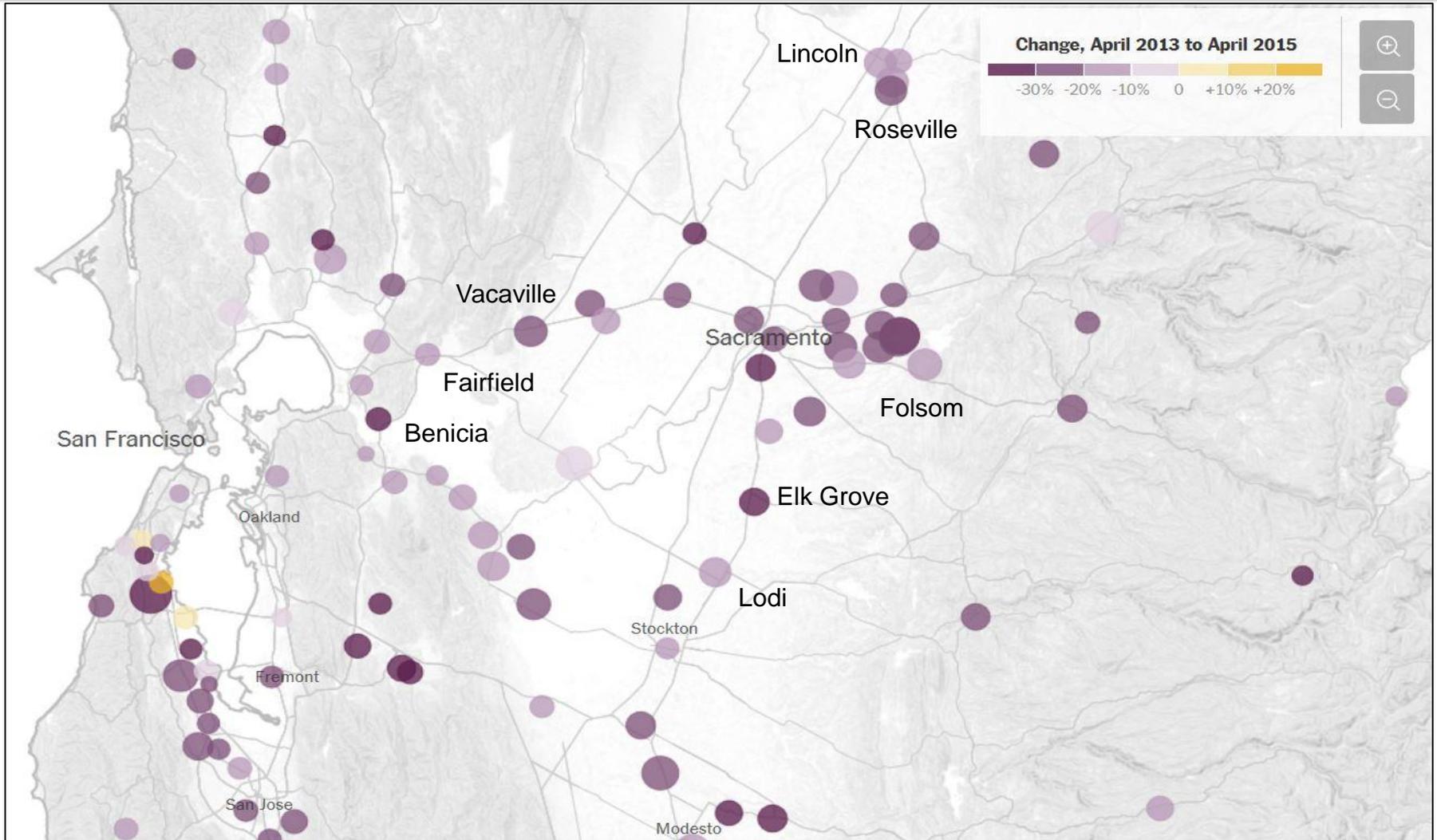
TOTAL ALLOCATION OF UNITS PER CALENDAR YEAR = 216

- **76% of Vacaville's residential customers used less than 216 units in 2013. 83% used less than 216 units in 2014**

# Proposed Allocations vs 2013 Use



# How is everyone else doing?



# Implementation of fines and penalties



## For violation of water use prohibitions:

- **Proposed implementation beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **First offense - Education**
- **Second offense - \$50 citation (citation waived if on-line “Water School” is completed)**
- **Third offense - \$100 citation**
- **Subsequent offenses - Increase in \$50 increments**
- **Administrative appeal process per Section 13.30 of Municipal Code**

# Implementation of fines and penalties



## For excessive water use:

- **Proposed implementation beginning with billing period starting July 6<sup>th</sup>**
- **Penalty for excessive water use proposed to be 25% of variable portion of water bill**
- **Administrative appeal process per Section 13.30 of Municipal Code**

# Vacaville website improvements



**City of VACAVILLE California**

FAIR, 85° F, VACAVILLE, CA

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## WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION CLICK HERE

[Pay Utility Bill Online](#) [RecWeb Online Registration](#) [Water Conservation](#) [eNews Sign-Up](#) [Vacaville Youth](#)

### Latest NEWS

Vacaville a 'Bark for your Park' finalist  
Vacaville has been named a finalist in the PetSafe "Bark for your Park" contest with a chance to win \$100,000 for a new dog park.

### Upcoming EVENTS

23 jun	City Council meeting 6/23/2015   6:00 PM
25 jun	Summer Program at the Town Square Library 6/25/2015   1:00 PM

### Today's Poll

What can be done to make more people conserve water in Vacaville and California?

# Vacaville website improvements



- Water
  - 2013 Triennial Report on Water Quality
  - Drinking Water
- Water Conservation
  - City and State Water Conservation Regulations
  - Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Regulations and Restrictions
  - Conservacion de Agua en Espanol
  - Enforcement Fines and Penalties
  - FAQs
  - Residential Water Regulations and Restrictions
  - Water Conservation Rebates Resources and Tips
- Sewer/Wastewater
- Engineering
- Environmental Protection
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## WATER CONSERVATION

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### WELCOME TO THE CITY OF VACAVILLE WATER CONSERVATION PAGE

#### WHAT DO I DO IF I'M A



**Residential Customer**



**Commercial, Industrial, Institutional Customer**

#### I Want to Know...

[How much water I'm using](#)

[Ways to save water indoors](#)

[How to report water waste](#)

[How to sign up for a water survey](#)

[Ways to save water outdoors](#)

[How to report a leak](#)

[How to find out about rebates](#)

[About penalties and fines](#)

[What my water allocation is](#)

# Comments received from the public



**“I believe citizens should be allowed to water on their own initiative. The fines should take care of over use.”**

**“I would like consideration for longer hours for landscape watering. I would suggest prohibiting watering from noon to 6 pm, or noon to 8 pm.”**

**“Vacaville should stop building all these new homes, and save the water for existing residents.”**

**“The City should not be allowing pools to be built during the drought.”**

# Comments received from the public



**“It would be nice, since hand-watering is permitted for plants, for drip irrigation to also be allowed for these plants.”**

**“I’ve been conserving water for awhile now, and I’ve let my grass die. My neighbors should be doing the same.”**

**“Let’s not waste our time (trying to enforce water waste), until we become reactive rather than proactive.”**

**“Don’t people realize we’re in a drought?”**

# Summary of Recommended Actions



- 1. Implement days of week limitations on the irrigation of outdoor landscaping and lawn by sprinkler irrigation**
- 2. Allow the selective hand-watering of individual plants, potted plants, and hanging plants with a watering can, hose with control nozzle, or drip irrigation system without limitations**
- 3. Revise language in the UWSCP regarding penalties for excessive water use**
- 4. Implement residential seasonal water use allocations**
- 5. Implement fines and penalties**

# Available Programs



**Water Efficient Landscape Rebates** - up to \$1,000 for the replacement of lawn with water efficient landscaping. Call 449-5113 or email [solanocash4grass@SCWA2.com](mailto:solanocash4grass@SCWA2.com)

**High Efficiency Washer Rebates** - up to \$150 for the purchase of energy efficient clothes washers. Visit [www.waterenergysavings.com](http://www.waterenergysavings.com) for more information.

**Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates** - up to \$1,000 for the purchase of qualifying smart irrigation controllers. Call 1-800-366-6995 for more information.

**Water efficient fixtures**, including aerators, nozzles, showerheads, and timers, *free of charge*, to qualified residents. Call 469-4123 for more information.

# Available Programs



**Residential and Commercial surveys** designed to identify ways for customers to save water and money. Surveys are free of charge. Call (707) 410-5469 for more information or to schedule a survey.

(707) 410-5469

# Resources



City of Vacaville website:

[www.cityofvacaville.com/savingwater](http://www.cityofvacaville.com/savingwater)

Solano Saves Water website:

[solanosaveswater.org](http://solanosaveswater.org)

Vacaville Utilities Department:

Ramiro Jimenez, Water Conservation Coordinator

[ramiro.jimenez@cityofvacaville.com](mailto:ramiro.jimenez@cityofvacaville.com)

(707) 469-4123

# Recommendation



**By simple motion, adopt the subject resolution**

# Saving Water in Vacaville



**QUESTIONS?**

# Saving Water in Vacaville



Supply Source	2014 Actual Use (Ac-Ft)	2015 Projected Supply (Ac-Ft)	2016 Projected Supply (Ac-Ft)	2017 Projected Supply (Ac-Ft)	2018 Projected Supply (Ac-Ft)
State Water Project Allocations	1,833	2,192	0	0	0
Solano Project Allocations	0	8,875	8,500	8200	6,900
Solano Project Carryover	9,148	23,994	23,800	13,500	10,500
Groundwater Wells	5,349	8,100	8,100	8,100	8,100
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,330</b>	<b>43,161</b>	<b>40,400</b>	<b>29,800</b>	<b>25,500</b>

- Projected 5% reduction in 2016 Solano Project (SP) supply if low rainfall next winter
- Projected 10% reduction in 2017 SP supply if low rainfall in winter 2016/17
- Projected 25% reduction in 2018 SP supply if low rainfall in winter 2017/18