NEWS RELEASE

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VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT ENDS MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Vista, CA—

Today, the Vista Irrigation District's (District) Board of Directors voted unanimously to declare an end to Level 2 conditions and return to Level 1, thanks to the extraordinary conservation efforts of its customers and improved water supply conditions statewide. The return to Level 1 becomes effective immediately.

The Level 2 condition included mandatory water use restrictions including limiting landscape watering to 2 days per week and 10 minutes per sprinkler station. These restrictions are no longer in effect with the return to Level 1. However, mandatory water-use efficiency practices, such as watering landscape in the early morning and evening hours, eliminating run-off, not using water to wash down paved surfaces and repairing leaks in a timely manner, remain in place with the return to Level 1.

The return to Level 1 does not mean that long-term water supply challenges related to multi-year droughts in California have ended but that the significant rain and snowfall this winter in northern California improved short-term water supply conditions such that available supplies should be sufficient to meet District's water demands for the foreseeable future.

"We want to thank our customers for their water-saving efforts and ask them to continue using water efficiently," said general manager Eldon Boone. "Continued water wise practices play an essential role in helping us manage our water supplies."

The District's action was taken in response to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) terminating water use reduction mandates as well as the District's water wholesaler, the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority), rescinding its water supply allocations.

The State Board replaced state-mandated conservation targets with a supply-based approach that considers each agency's specific situation and water supplies. The State Board also approved allowing wholesalers such as the Water Authority to certify supply sufficiency for their regions if every retail agency they service agrees. The Water Authority and its member agencies approved taking a regional approach on June 9, 2016.

Using the State Board's methodology, calculations show that Water Authority supplies (from Colorado River water conservation-and-transfer agreements, Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) combined with member agency local supplies and supplemented by Water Authority stored water supplies would be more than sufficient to meet demands for all Water Authority member agencies, even after three additional years of drought. This means that the region's water conservation standard is zero and that the region's water agencies won't be subject to state-mandated water use reductions through January 2017.

The District declared a Level 2 condition in August 2014 as the result of the State board adopting statewide emergency regulations requiring water suppliers to implement their drought response plans at a level that activates mandatory outdoor water use restrictions and prohibits certain water wasting practices. The District implemented stricter water conservation measures in June 2015 following Governor Brown issuing an executive order imposing reductions in water use statewide and the State Board imposing mandated conservation standards. District customers have reduced their water use by 19 percent since June 2015, beating the District's state mandated conservation standard of 12 percent.

For more information on water-use efficiency measures in place during Level 1, visit www.vid-h2o.org or call District at (760) 597-3160.

The Vista Irrigation District is a public agency governed by an elected five-member board. The district provides water service to more than 127,000 people in the city of Vista, and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, and unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

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