



## **Santa Clara Valley Water District Ends Water Shortage Emergency**

### **Great Oaks Water Company Ends Mandatory Conservation Allocations and Excess Usage Surcharges**

April 12, 2023

At its Board Meeting on April 11, 2023, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board rescinded the Water Shortage Emergency it had declared on June 9, 2021. As a result, the “*mandatory*” water conservation measures for Great Oaks Water Company customers have also ended, effective April 11, 2023.

Valley Water is still calling for countywide “*voluntary*” water use reductions of 15% as compared to water usage in 2019, so the call for conservation is the same as before, except that it is now “*voluntary*” instead of “*mandatory*.”

This is an important difference for Great Oaks’ customers, as the end of mandatory conservation also brings an end to the system of allocations and excess usage surcharges authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). You will no longer be held to usage allocations, nor will you be billed for exceeding those allocations. Great Oaks has notified the CPUC that the mandatory allocations and excess usage surcharges are being discontinued, effective April 11, 2023.

Please note that water waste prohibitions are still in effect, including excessive outdoor watering that results in runoff and the watering of “nonfunctional” or merely decorative lawns on commercial (non-residential) properties. More information on water waste prohibitions may be found here:

[https://greatoakswater.com/TariffPDFs/GOWC\\_ScheduleNo141.pdf](https://greatoakswater.com/TariffPDFs/GOWC_ScheduleNo141.pdf)

Across California, conservation efforts will continue regardless of the weather. It is said that *Making Conservation a Way of Life* will help protect and preserve our water supplies into the future. There is no doubt that there will be mandatory conservation requirements again in our near future, as the government agencies responsible for managing our water supplies are preparing to issue comprehensive regulations for water use that will apply to everyone.

Great Oaks thanks its customers for their efforts to conserve water over the last two years. Our water supplies are in good condition, and we will continue to provide our customers with safe and reliable water service at reasonable prices.