



June 6, 2024

TO: LOCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Ron Munds, General Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4A – 06/06/2024 Board Meeting
Los Osos CSD 2023-2024 Water Supply and Status Report.

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board and community with an overview of the District's water supply and water supply outlook, water production history, rainfall totals, per capita water use trends, and other pertinent water related information. A report, similar to this one, will be provided to the Board annually at the June Board meeting.

With the changes to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) strategies in October 2023, which updated the triggers to enter or exit the various stages of water conservation, a recommendation is being made to move from a Stage III water emergency to a Stage II.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the following:

Motion: I move that the Board:

- 1. Receive and file the 2023-2024 Water Supply and Status Report;***
- and***
- 2. Adopt Resolution 2024-06 approving moving from a Stage III water supply emergency to Stage II.***

DISCUSSION

As stated, the purpose of this report is to provide the Board and community with an overview of the District's water supply and water supply outlook, water production history, rainfall totals, per capita water use trends, and other pertinent water related information. A report, similar to this one, will be provided to the Board annually at the June Board meeting.

The following sections of the report provides an overview and status of the key elements which determine the overall condition of the District's water supply.

Water Supply

The District's single source of water supply is from the Los Osos Groundwater Basin which is adjudicated and managed by a coordinated effort with the District, Golden State Water Company, S&T Mutual Water Company and the County of San Luis Obispo. These entities make up the Basin Management Committee which oversee the implementation of the groundwater management plan known as the Basin Plan. Implementation of the programs (mainly Programs A & C) in the Basin Plan fall mainly on the water purveyors with BMC assistance and support for data

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collection and the commissioning of additional studies when needed. Implementation of the Basin Plan, planning for a water resilient water supply future and maintaining existing infrastructure are the key challenges facing the District.

The following are updates on the District's water supply and projects:

Rehabilitation of Existing Wells- Since 2019, the District has had to rehabilitate (rebuild) three of its four existing lower aquifer wells. This is an indication of the age of the well infrastructure and the fragile nature of the water supply system. When a well is out of service, it puts stress on the remaining wells to make up the difference. This is especially problematic when the District is trying to cut production at the Palisades and 8th Street wells to combat seawater intrusion.

Program A- Program A entail shifting and/or adding water production from the upper aquifer (Zone C). To implement this program, the District has an upper aquifer well at the South Bay site which requires nitrate removal equipment. This is a low producing well in terms of gallons per minute that can be pumped and it is expensive to maintain. The District has minimized its use because of the well limitations.

The District was successful in completing another upper aquifer well at the 8th Street water yard location. This well has added extra capacity to the water system and works well in coordination with the lower aquifer well at the same location.

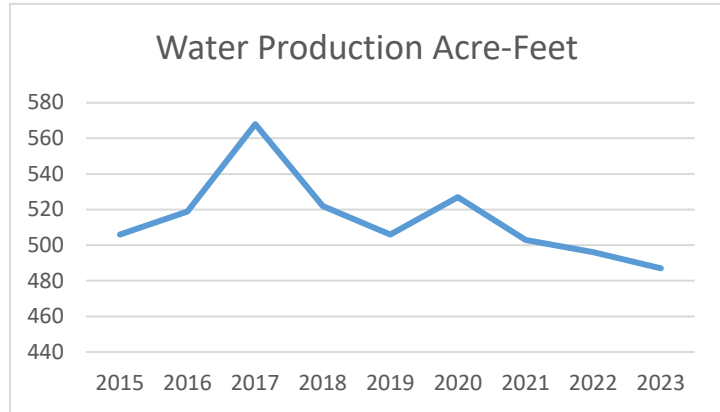
Program C- The strategy outlined in Program C is to shift pumping from the western portion of the basin in Zones D and E to the middle and east portions. The District has been working on the Program C well project for over five years and it is near completion. This will add operational integrity to the District's well infrastructure and add safe yield to the basin sustainable yield estimates.

Water Supply Resiliency Intertie Project- The District has been working on the Water Supply Resiliency project since October 2022. This project will add a connection to the regional water supply network by connecting to the State Water pipeline in the Chorro Valley. The strategy is to bring imported water during wet years to offset pumping in the groundwater basin. This would allow for better recharge rates during average or above average rainfall years. During periods of drought, the basin will be better equipped to sustain the community's water needs. Preliminary engineering design and the environmental impact assessment work has been completed. Next steps would be to find project financing to complete the design and initiate construction of the pipeline. The District also needs to negotiate with the County for an allocation from the State Water Project.

Water Production

One of the key goals in the Basin Plan is decrease production not only from wells on the westerly side of the groundwater basin but to also track water use by customers in an effort to lower overall water production. Tracking production provides the District (and the BMC) with valuable information on customer water consumption, monitoring the water systems water loss and tracking revenues to support the operations of the water system. The following is the District's water production numbers since 2015 as reported in the BMC's annual monitoring report:

Water Production	
Year	Acre-Feet
2015	506
2016	519
2017	568
2018	522
2019	506
2020	527
2021	503
2022	496
2023	487

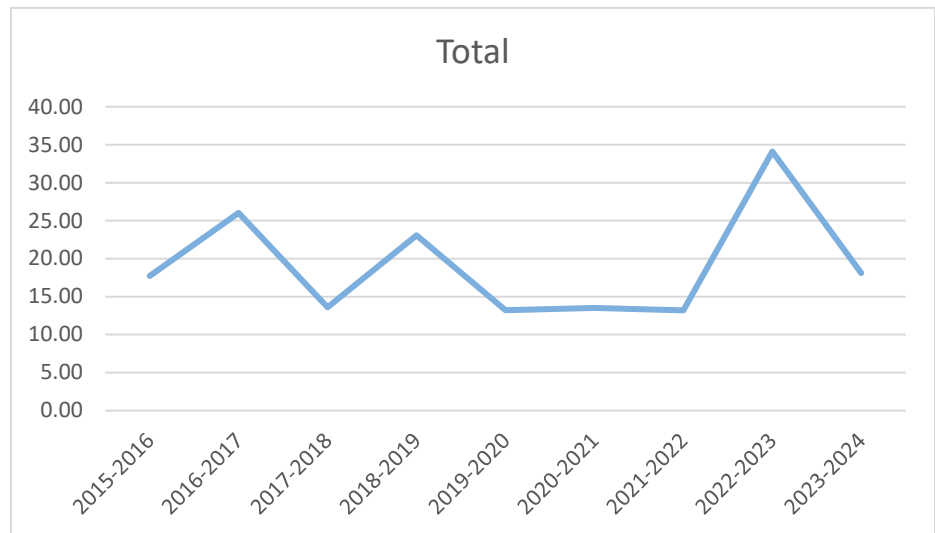


As indicated in the table and chart, overall, water production has steadily decreased over this period of time, even during drought and above rainfall periods. Since around 2019, water production has been relatively stable in the District's service area.

Rainfall

Since the District's water supply is dependent on groundwater recharge from rainfall, tracking the cumulative impacts of rainfall amounts on water levels in the aquifer is one of several key factors on determining the sustainability of the basin. Currently, the District's rainfall year is from April through March. The reason for this time period, as opposed to a calendar or fiscal year, is that the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) references the date of March 31st of each year as the point in time when the determination of if the District should increase or decrease the water shortage stage based on the trigger mechanism defined in the WSCP. The following table and chart provide rainfall total since 2015.

Water Year	Total
2015-2016	17.72
2016-2017	26.01
2017-2018	13.62
2018-2019	23.09
2019-2020	13.23
2020-2021	13.52
2021-2022	13.20
2022-2023	34.11
2023-2024	18.12

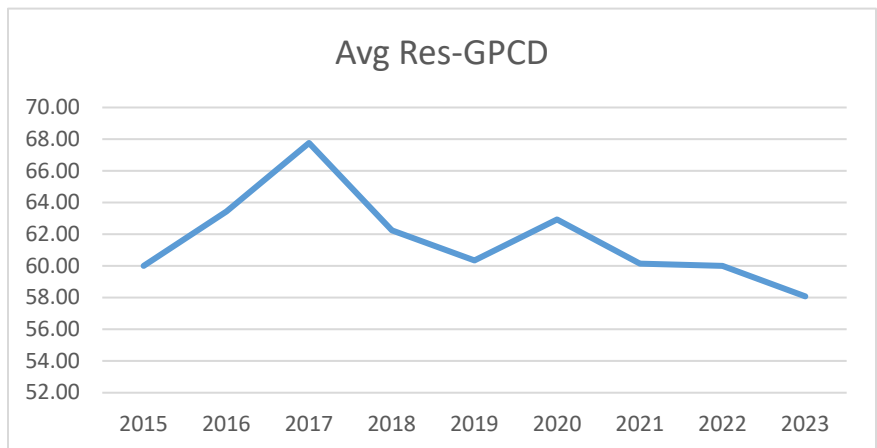


Residential Per Capita Water Use

Residential per capita water use is defined as the amount of water used per person per day in a household. This includes both indoor and outdoor water consumption. It is calculated by using a California developed formula that uses total monthly production, the percentage of both single and multi-family residential accounts versus all accounts, population and number of days in the particular

month to calculate the per capita number. Per capita water use does fluctuate from month to month and year to year mostly driven by climatic conditions, i.e. rainfall, drought conditions, etc. The following table and chart provide the annual average residential per capita water for each year going back to 2015.

YEAR	Avg Res-GPCD
2015	60.01
2016	63.44
2017	67.76
2018	62.25
2019	60.35
2020	62.94
2021	60.14
2022	60.00
2023	58.08



As indicated, residential per capita water use has remained fairly constant for a number of years.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan – Water Conservation Stage

The WSCP was updated in October 2023. The update included modifications to the climatic triggers to enter and exit the various stages based on current conditions and operational experience. The District has been in Stage III of the WSCP since 2015 due to the old triggers which were based strictly on year-to-year rainfall totals instead of the current triggers based on cumulative totals over multiple years and the BMC’s water level metric which is an indicator for the impacts of drought, average and above average rainfall on the groundwater basin. The following is the criteria for exiting Stage III:

To exit Stage III and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage III.

Using the criteria of equivalent rainfall \geq average (17 inches) by March 31 for two consecutive years, the rainfall totals for 2022-23 and 2023-2024 equal 52.23 inches versus the two-year average of 34 inches (17 inches per year times 2), the exiting criteria has been met.

Rainfall/Inches		Equivalent Amount	Two Year Ave.
Year	Amount	Inches	Inches
2021-22	13.20		
2022-23	34.11	47.31	34
2023-24	18.12	52.23	34

Additionally, the BMC spring Water Level Metric for 2023 increased by about two feet, again meeting the exiting criteria.

Water Level Metric	
Year	Level
2020	1.8
2021	2.1
2022	2.5
2023	4.3

With the recent changes to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) strategies which updated the triggers to enter or exit the various stages of water conservation, a recommendation is being made to move from a Stage III water emergency to a Stage II based on the amount of rainfall received and the rise in the Water Level Metric for the past three years.

Attached to the report is a summary of the prohibitions for both Stage II and III. Basically, the changes are as follows:

- The raising of the gallons per person per day (gpcd) requirement from 46 gpcd to 52 gpcd
- Eliminating implementation of water allocations and financial penalties for excessive water use
- Elimination of no new intent-to-serve applications

Utilities Advisory Committee Recommendation

The Utilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Board approve moving from a Stage III water supply emergency to a Stage II based on the data presented and the triggers to enter and exit the various stages of a water supply emergency.

Summary

The information in this report provides a high-level overview of the District's water portfolio, water production, per capita water use, rainfall, and the review of the WSCP which indicates the opportunity to move to a different stage of conservation. In general, the District is incrementally improving its overall water supply conditions because of the investments made to the water system and the future planning efforts underway. Continue efforts in water conservation, water supply resiliency and implementation of the Basin Plan programs are essential to provide water to the community now and in the future.

Attachments

Resolution No. 2024-06 Adopting Stage II Water Conservation
Summary of Stage II and III Mandatory Conservation Triggers & Prohibitions

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
DECLARING A STAGE II WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Los Osos Community Services District (“District”) became effective January 1, 1999, pursuant to an election and Resolution No 98-239 of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, and under the authority of the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act of 1985 (Government Code §56000 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the District updated and amended the *Water Shortage Contingency Plan* that identified voluntary and mandatory water use restrictions and shortage stages I-V designed to reduce water demand in response to drought or other water quality or supply deficiencies.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to declare a Stage II Water Shortage Emergency within the water service area of the Los Osos Community Services District based on the change in the equivalent rainfall over the course of 3 years and the rise in the Basin Management Committee’s Water Level Metric pursuant to the guidelines within the adopted *Water Shortage Contingency Plan*.

WHEREAS, the public meeting adopting this Resolution has been properly noticed pursuant to Government Code §54954.2 (The Brown Act).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. A Stage II water emergency is in effect, together with the prohibitions and measures contained within the adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plan herein referenced as Exhibit A.
3. All Ordinances, Resolutions and sections of Ordinances and Resolutions that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby repealed.
4. The Board of Directors of the District finds that the Stage II Water Shortage Emergency adopted by this Resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(8) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15273.
5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, ineffective or in any manner in conflict with the laws of the United States, or the State of California, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. The Governing Board of the District hereby declares that it would have adopted this Resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional, ineffective, or in any manner in conflict with the laws of the United States or the State of California.
6. This Resolution shall take effect June 6, 2024.

On the motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____,
and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSENT: _____
ABSTAIN: _____

The foregoing resolution is hereby passed and adopted this 6th day of June 2024.

Marshall E. Ochylski
President, Board of Directors
Los Osos Community Services District

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ron Munds
General Manager and Secretary to the Board

Thomas D. Green
District Legal Counsel

Chapter 2.06 Water Conservation and Emergency Water Shortage Regulations (As amended on 10/5/23, Ord. 2023-02)

2.06.01 Water Conservation Stages.

A. Stage I Conservation.

1. Upon a determination by the Board of Directors that there exists rainfall totals as March 31st: less than average of (17 inches) for the current year, a target reduction of 5% and the following prohibitions may take effect for residential customers:
 - (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 174 gallons per day per household or 58 gallons per day per occupant.
 - (b) All outdoor irrigation of vegetation shall occur only between the hours of dusk and dawn
 - (c) The use of potable water to wash sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, open ground and other hard-surface areas by direct application shall be prohibited.
 - (d) The use of non-drinking-water fountains, except for those using recirculated water, shall be prohibited.
 - (e) Use of water which results in flooding or run-off in gutters or streets shall be prohibited.
 - (f) Commercial, and Irrigation customers will reduce consumption by 5% on a voluntary basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage I will not be declared.

2. In Addition to the prohibitions referenced in Section 2.06.01.A1 above, the Board of Directors will initiate a public information campaign to educate District residents, urging water conservation and showing ways the public can save water.
3. To exit Stage I and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for one year is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage I.

B. Stage II Conservation.

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1. In addition to Stage I conservation measures, upon determination of the Board of Directors that there exists rainfall total as of March 31st: less than or equal to thirty-two (32) inches for over two (2) years or less than or equal to forty-eight (48) inches over three (3) years or sixty-five (65) inches over four (4) years or eighty-one (81) inches over five (5) years or if the Basin Management Committee's spring Water Level Metric declines, the following measures may take effect immediately:
 - (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 156 gallons per day per household or 52 gallons per day per occupant
 - (b) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire suppression and/or other activities immediately necessary to maintain health, safety and welfare of residents within the boundaries of the Los Osos Community Services District.
 - (c) The use of District potable water for construction projects shall be prohibited.
 - (d) The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats and other types of mobile equipment not occurring upon the immediate premises of a commercial car wash and/or commercial service station shall be prohibited unless residents have an automatic shut-off hose nozzle and do not allow water to run off their property.

2. In addition to those measures stated in 2.06.01.B1 above, the Board of Directors, by resolution and/or ordinance, may adopt additional water conservation measures on an urgency basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage II will not be declared.

To exit Stage II and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage II.

A. Stage III Conservation.

1. In addition to the water conservation measures established in Stage I and Stage II above, upon a determination of the Board of Directors that there exists, rainfall total as of March 31st: less than or equal to 29 inches for over two (2) years or less than or equal to

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forty-three (43) inches over three (3) years or fifty-eight (58) inches over four (4) years or seventy-two (72) inches over five (5) years, or chloride triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 150 milligrams per liter (mg/L), or Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 900 mg/L, or if the Basin Management Committee's spring Water Level Metric declines the following measures may take effect:

- (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 137 gallons per day per household or 46 gallons per day per occupant based on the information on the Occupancy Form on file with the District.
- (b) Each commercial customer shall be limited the amount in section 2.06.C.1(a) above or the water shortage contingency rate adopted by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Penalties up to two (2) times the established rate for usage above allocation, may be applied. District will notify customer of usage above allocation, if the customer fails to modify usage, penalties may be applied.
- (d) No new intent-to-serve applications will be considered.

In addition to those measures stated in Section 2.06.01.C1 above, the Board of Directors, by resolution and/or ordinance, may adopt additional water conservation measures on an urgency basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage III will not be declared.

2. To exit Stage III and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage III.

B. Stage IV Conservation.

1. In addition to the water conservation measures established in Stages I, II, and III above, upon a determination of the Board of Directors that there exists, rainfall total as of March 31st: less than or equal to twenty-six (26) inches for over two (2) years or less than or equal to thirty-eight (38) inches over three (3) years or fifty-

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one (51) inches over four (4) years, or sixty-four (64) inches over five (5) years, or chloride triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 250 mg/L, or TDS triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 950 mg/L, or if the Basin Management Committee's spring Water Level Metric declines the following measures may take effect:

- (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 119 gallons per day per household or 40 gallons per day per occupant based on the information on the Occupancy Form on file with the District.
- (b) Commercial allocation will be set at 10% below baseline.
- (c) Penalties up to four (4) times established rate may be applied.

In addition to those measures stated in Section 2.06.01.D1 above, the Board of Directors, by resolution and/or ordinance, may adopt additional water conservation measures on an urgency basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage IV will not be declared.

2. To exit Stage IV and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage IV.

C. Stage V Conservation.

1. In addition to the water conservation measures established in Stages I, II, III and IV above, upon a determination of the Board of Directors that there exists, rainfall total as of March 31st: less than or equal to seventeen (17) inches for over two (2) years or equal than or equal to twenty-six (26) in. over three (3) yrs. or thirty-four (34) inches over four (4) years or forty-three (43) inches over five (5) years or chloride triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 500 mg/L, or TDS triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 1,000 mg/L, or if the Basin Management Committee's spring Water Level Metric declines the following measures may take effect:

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- (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 92 gallons per day per household or 31 gallons per day per occupant based on the information on the Occupancy Form on file with the District.
- (b) Penalties up to four (4) times established rate may be applied.
- (c) Commercial allocation will be set at 15% below baseline.
- (d) Penalties up to four (4) times established rate may be applied.

In addition to those measures stated in Section 2.06.01.E1 above, the Board of Directors, by resolution and/or ordinance, may adopt additional water conservation measures on an urgency basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage V will not be declared.

- 2. To exit Stage V and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage V.

2.06.02 Water Shortage Contingency Stages Implementation

- A. Stage I – Alert
 - 1. Customers affected are residential only
- B. Stage II – Warning
 - 1. Customers affected are residential only
- C. Stage III – Emergency
 - 1. Customers affected are residential only
- D. Stage IV – Severe
 - 1. All customers affected
- E. Stage V – Critical
 - 1. All customer classifications are affected

2.06.03 Water-Saving Devices

EXHIBIT A

A. All customers are encouraged to install and use the following water conservation devices:

1. Low flush toilets 1.28 gallons per flush or less;
2. Low flow shower heads 2.0 gallons per minutes or less; and
3. Drip irrigation.

2.06.04 Violation and Enforcement. The following apply to persons violating the provisions of District's water conservation and emergency water shortage regulations.

- A. First Violation. A copy of the notice will be left with someone at the residence or establishment, or left in a conspicuous place, at the time the violation is observed.
- B. Second Violation. A twenty-five dollar (\$100.00) surcharge, in addition to any other penalties or fees owing, shall be assessed to the account of the violator, and a copy of the violation notice will be sent to the address of the violator with delivery confirmation, with a letter explaining the gravity of the situation and the penalties for future violations.
- C. Third Violation. A two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250.00) surcharge, in addition to any other penalties or fees owing, shall be assessed to the account of the violator, and a one-gallon per minute flow restriction will be installed at the violator's meter and left in place for seventy-two (72) hours. Installation and removal charges shall be established by District resolution and shall be assessed to the account of the violator.
- D. Fourth Violation. The water meter will be removed from the premises of the violator. The meter will be reinstalled, on conditions set by the District, after the payment of District reconnection charges and the payment of all other charges, surcharges and penalties owing.

2.06.05 Review and Appeals

Any person who disputes the application of these Water Conservation Regulations may seek review under the following procedures:

- A. Dispute Resolution Hearings shall be conducted by the General Manager or his/her designee on the following terms and conditions:
1. The applicant shall request in writing a hearing within ten (10) days

EXHIBIT A

of the event giving rise to the dispute.

2. All fines, penalties, surcharges, and service charges shall be deposited with the District.
 3. The hearing shall be conducted at a mutually acceptable time, as soon as practical.
 4. The General Manager shall consider the evidence presented at the hearing and is authorized to render a decision in his/her discretion that is consistent with the conservation measures established in Section 2.06.01 above.
- B. Appeals: The decision of the General Manager may be appealed by making written application to the Board of Directors, in care of the General Manager, within five (5) business days of the General Manager's decision. The appeal to the Board of Directors will be held under the procedures established in Sections 1.02.03.A and 1.02.03 of this Ordinance.
- C. Judicial review of the decision of the Board of Directors shall be pursuant to Chapter I, Section 1.02.04 of the District code.

Stage II & III Mandatory Conservation Summary

A. Stage II Conservation.

1. In addition to Stage I conservation measures, upon determination of the Board of Directors that there exists rainfall total as of March 31st: less than or equal to thirty-two (32) inches for over two (2) years or less than or equal to forty-eight (48) inches over three (3) years or sixty-five (65) inches over four (4) years or eighty-one (81) inches over five (5) years or if the Basin Management Committee's spring Water Level Metric declines, the following measures may take effect immediately:
 - (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 156 gallons per day per household or 52 gallons per day per occupant
 - (b) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire suppression and/or other activities immediately necessary to maintain health, safety and welfare of residents within the boundaries of the Los Osos Community Services District.
 - (c) The use of District potable water for construction projects shall be prohibited.
 - (d) The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats and other types of mobile equipment not occurring upon the immediate premises of a commercial car wash and/or commercial service station shall be prohibited unless residents have an automatic shut-off hose nozzle and do not allow water to run off their property.
2. In addition to those measures stated in 2.06.01.B1 above, the Board of Directors, by resolution and/or ordinance, may adopt additional water conservation measures on an urgency basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage II will not be declared.

To exit Stage II and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage II.

A. Stage III Conservation.

1. In addition to the water conservation measures established in Stage I and Stage II above, upon a determination of the Board of Directors that there exists, rainfall total as of March 31 is: less than or equal to 29 inches for over two (2) years or less than or equal to forty-three (43) inches over three (3) years or fifty-eight (58) inches over four (4) years or seventy-two (72) inches over five (5) years, or chloride triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 150 milligrams per liter (mg/L), or Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) triggers at 8th Street or 10th Street wells is equal to 900 mg/L, or if the Basin Management Committee's spring Water Level Metric declines the following measures may take effect:

- (a) Each residential unit shall be limited to 137 gallons per day per household or 46 gallons per day per occupant based on the information on the Occupancy Form on file with the District.
- (b) Each commercial customer shall be limited the amount in section 2.06.C.1(a) above or the water shortage contingency rate adopted by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Penalties up to two (2) times the established rate for usage above allocation, may be applied. District will notify customer of usage above allocation, if the customer fails to modify usage, penalties may be applied.
- (d) No new intent-to-serve applications will be considered.

In addition to those measures stated in Section 2.06.01.C1 above, the Board of Directors, by resolution and/or ordinance, may adopt additional water conservation measures on an urgency basis.

If the BMC spring Water Level Metric remains the same from the previous year or increases, Stage III will not be declared.

2. To exit Stage III and upon a determination by the Board of Directors, if the equivalent rainfall \geq average by March 31 for two consecutive years is received or the BMC spring Water Level Metric increases, may allow for the exiting Stage III.