



NEWS RELEASE

**Mammoth Community Water District
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State tightens conservation measures in response to historic drought. Locally, MCWD targets a 30% reduction in water demand under Level 3 Water Shortage Restrictions.

Mammoth Lakes, CA – Located high in the Sierra Nevada, the community of Mammoth Lakes was well aware of the scant snow that fell this winter. All of the water that feeds this community is locally obtained from surface and groundwater sources, so back in February when the snow didn't build up, the Mammoth Community Water District's (MCWD) Board of Directors (Board) voted to raise the water shortage restrictions from Level 1 to Level 2. At the end of March, the Mammoth Pass snowpack water content was 98 percent below normal indicating the MCWD would be relying almost solely on groundwater to supply the community. Based on that measurement and two groundwater production wells undergoing repairs, on April 1st, the Board called a special meeting to raise the water restrictions to Level 3 with a goal of reducing water use 30 percent compared to 2013. On the same day, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order requiring a statewide 25 percent reduction in water use.

The State Water Resources Control Board has issued Emergency Regulations to implement the Governor's 25 percent reduction Executive Order. The majority of measures required by the state are not new to MCWD's water shortage restrictions. However, MCWD customers should be aware of the following state requirements: irrigating turf on public street medians is prohibited, newly constructed homes and buildings may not be irrigated with potable water, and irrigating during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall is not allowed.

At Level 3, MCWD customers are being asked to reduce water use by 30 percent this year. The current drought has reduced surface water flows such that MCWD is now 100 percent reliant on groundwater supplies. With the lack of snowpack replenishing our surface water and recharging our aquifers this year, conservation is of utmost importance. This past month, customers reduced water demand by 26 percent compared to April 2013. "We're shooting for a 30 percent reduction, but we're still happy to see the savings, especially since some customers started irrigating early this year when we don't normally see high usage" reports Betty Hylton, Project Specialist at MCWD.

Restrictions this year include only allowing irrigation two days a week, prohibiting the irrigation of new lawns with MCWD water, and requiring customers to wash cars at a commercial facilities. In addition, restaurants should only serve water on request and lodging facilities must allow guests to opt out of having linens laundered daily. The MCWD is assisting customers with water conservation through a fixture replacement rebate program for clothes and dishwashers, toilets, showerheads and pressure-reducing valves on irrigation systems. For a complete list of regulations, including allowed watering days

and hours, and rebate program applications, please visit www.mcwd.dst.ca.us. The MCWD also has a water conservation violation reporting hotline, (760) 924 4511.

About Mammoth Community Water District

MCWD provides water and wastewater utility service to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and surrounding areas. MCWD strives to provide reliable, affordable utility service to our customers and to conduct our operations in a manner reflecting our stewardship role. We encourage our customers to practice responsible use of our limited water resources, and to take advantage of the information and services available to support this goal.