

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

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Date: December 11, 2007

To: Mayor Hearn and City Council Members

From: James R. Williams, Public Works Director

Subject: **Introduction of Ordinances Pertaining to Water Conservation**

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**Recommendation:**

- a. Introduce **Ordinance No. 892**, prohibiting the waste of water and declaring it unlawful.
- b. Introduce **Ordinance No. 893**, establishing standards to ensure efficient water use through appropriate landscape design.

**Background:**

The City Council has an on-going interest in ensuring that our community has adequate water supplies. To this end, the City Council has conducted a water resources workshop, received status reports on water supply and availability, conducted studies in recycled water and groundwater recharge, passed a recycled water ordinance, caused the construction of a recycled water system, and participated as a major stakeholder in the Integrated Regional Water Management Group.

Water shortages are predicted throughout Southern California over the next year because of arid conditions, a dwindling snow pack, low reservoir levels, and court ordered restrictions on pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Actions are in the process of being taken within our community to supplement water supplies (i.e., new recycled water systems, increased treatment capacity of State Water Project water, and groundwater banking). Should predicted water shortages occur, these actions will not be able to meet short-term water needs of our community. The proposed ordinances lay the groundwork for both short-term and long-term water conservation. The water wasting ordinance defines acts that constitute the waste of water. It makes such acts illegal and defines responsibility for water waste.

The water efficient landscape ordinance restricts the application of high water use landscaping and imposes the necessity of smart irrigation controllers on new development projects. The ordinance follows the recommended guidelines suggested by a coalition of Antelope Valley water purveyors, landscape architects, City officials, builders, and representatives from the Building Industry Association.

Additional water conservation measures will be recommended in the future as the need arises.