



**PRESS RELEASE – 3/25/2016**  
**PHELAN PINON HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
**Conservation Requirement Reduced from 32% to 24%**  
For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

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The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District's required conservation percentage has been reduced from 32% to 24%.

On March 24, 2016, the Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District (District) received notification from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that the District's conservation requirement has been reduced from 32% to 24% due to a climate adjustment and reclassification of certain District customers from residential to institutional or commercial.

On Monday, March 21, 2016, District representatives met with the SWRCB and outlined several factors that should reduce the District's conservation requirements. It was determined by the SWRCB the District was entitled to a 4% reduction to account for consideration of the area's climate. An additional 4% was given as a result of reclassification of certain District customers from residential to institutional or commercial.

On April 1, 2015, the Governor of the State of California issued Executive Order B-29-15 which demanded a 25% reduction in water consumption. On May 5, 2015, the SWRCB adopted the emergency regulation to achieve a 25% statewide reduction in urban potable water use. The new regulation was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for approval, and went into effect May 15, 2015. It was decided by the SWRCB that the District must reduce production of potable water by 32% compared to 2013. On February 2, 2016, the order was extended through October 31, 2016. District staff received notification of an Alternative Compliance Order and immediately applied for a percentage reduction. This was ultimately approved by the SWRCB on March 24, 2016, after the SWRCB met with General Manager Bartz on March 21, 2016, where General Manager Bartz plead the case of the District.

Since the initial conservation order was handed down, General Manager Bartz, the District's Conservation Committee, and Director Alex Brandon have made several trips to Sacramento to meet with the SWRCB to try and bring some relief to District customers who have been tasked with complying with one of the highest conservation percentage requirements in the state. No consideration was given for the fact District customers have been conserving and have been a part of an Adjudicated basin for decades. This adjustment comes after the Board adopted conservation violation fines at the last regular Board meeting on March 16, 2016. The fines are set to go into effect May 1, 2016. The percentage reduction adjustment will help many customers avoid fines altogether and will help reduce the fine amount for many others. District staff and the Board of Directors will continue to appeal to the SWRCB in hopes of achieving an even greater conservation percentage reduction. It is the hope of the District that the percentage will be reduced to where very few customers will be impacted by conservation violation fines.

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For further information regarding this matter, please contact District staff at (760) 868-1212.