

Resolution in Support of Water Sustainability Requirements

WHEREAS California has long suffered from drought, however water usage has not adequately decreased, and in some cases has increased. Encouragement of voluntary water restrictions has not been effective due to Californians' lack of understanding of the urgency of the crisis, or of the proper methods, benefits, and available rebates of water conservation in businesses or homes. In March of this year, urban water consumption was the highest since March of 2015, despite the critically low levels of reservoirs and groundwater. The National Integrated Drought Information system (NIDIS) shows January to May of 2022 being the driest year to date in the past 128 years in Santa Clara County, with 100% of the county in a state of "Severe Drought"; and

WHEREAS the California Sustainability Alliance states that "California could save enough energy to power 150,000 homes and slash carbon emissions by a half-million metric tons annually if it made full use of secondary and tertiary water supplies"; and

WHEREAS Governor Newsom has implored a reduction of water consumption by 15% from homes and businesses in response to ever-worsening drought conditions and lack of action for water conservation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the establishment of the following requirements for all buildings, homes, and businesses, with the goal of at least two from each category being met by 2025 where applicable:

1. Water-efficient appliances
 - a. Install WaterSense or Energy Star certified products which are 20% more efficient than conventional models, or other high-efficiency appliances
 - b. Install more restrictive faucet aerators, use high-efficiency plumbing fixtures and valves, and use flush valves with lower flow rates
 - c. Replace once-through cooling with air-cooled equipment or recycle water for cooling
 - d. Subsidize the manufacture and purchase of water-efficient appliances
2. Water-efficient landscaping
 - a. Use drought-tolerant and native plants that require minimal water
 - b. Use water-efficient irrigation such as drip irrigation, and irrigate in the morning or early evening to reduce water loss to evaporation
 - c. Capture rainwater with improved rain gutter and storage system for irrigation
3. Maximize use of recycled water for non-potable uses
 - a. Make use of greywater systems for non-potable uses such as irrigation
 - b. Recycle indoor water to use for irrigation
 - c. Recycle secondary and tertiary water for non-potable uses such as irrigation
4. Improve and maintain water system
 - a. Improve water heater insulation
 - b. Use water-use audits to monitor losses and improve conservation, gathering information on how usage may be reduced

- c. Assess for and repair leaks to water system
- 5. As applicable to businesses
 - a. Educate employees on methods of conserving water, including the financial benefits and available rebates
 - b. Recirculate water in car washes, laundries, and decorative fountains
 - c. Create written water-conservation plans, recurrently monitoring progress
 - d. Use of recycled water to irrigate golf courses

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party urges Santa Clara County to partner with WaterSense to promote water efficiency, including methods to inform the public such as holding workshops or mandating school and employee programs, as well as participating in national outreach campaigns, and submitting annual updates on water-efficiency activities and that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the Governor and members of the State Assembly and State Senate who represent any part of Santa Clara County.

Submitted by Jonny Estrada

Adopted by the Youth Delegates and affirmed by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on July 7, 2022