

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Shad S. Springer, Director of Utilities

**DATE:** May 5, 2025

**SUBJECT: Proclamation Proclaiming May 2026 as “Water Awareness Month”**

The City Council will present a Proclamation proclaiming May as “Water Awareness Month” in the City of Santa Maria.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Each year, the Utilities Department, along with other water purveyors, observes the month of May as Water Awareness Month to educate the community and encourage the wise use of water.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Utilities Department maintains a robust water awareness and conservation program that includes community outreach, school education, complimentary home water visits, and suspected leak notifications. The objective of the City’s ongoing conservation campaign is to remind the community of the importance of preserving this natural resource.

Historically, water use increases in the month of May as summer approaches, especially for outdoor use. The community can help conserve over the summer by implementing the following tips outdoors:

#### Outdoor Conservation Tips

- Plant drought-tolerant plants and trees.
- Replace grass or turf with water-wise plants.
- Recycle indoor water to use on plants.
- Refrain from watering landscapes for 48 hours after rainfall.
- Use a broom to clean driveways, patios, and sidewalks, instead of a hose.
- Water outdoor landscapes in the early morning or late evening when temperatures are cooler (before 12:00 p.m. and after 4:00 p.m.).

On an ongoing basis, the following tips can also be implemented indoors:

#### Indoor Conservation Tips

- Install water-saving devices, such as low-flow showerheads, high-efficiency toilets, and kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators.

- Reduce showers by two minutes and save five gallons of water.
- Turn water off while brushing teeth and save three gallons of water.
- Fix leaky faucets and save up to 20 gallons of water per day.
- Wash a full load of laundry (no partial loads) and save 15 to 50 gallons per load.

When funding is available, the State of California offers water rebates for turf replacements and toilet upgrades, and that information is posted to the City website.

Attachment: Proclamation