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## Montecito Water District

Agenda Item 5-A

**Proposed Ordinance No. 99**

**Water Use Efficiency Policies and Recommendations**

Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 21, 2024

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# Background

- Since 2014: Various water use ordinances adopted to
  - Respond to changing drought conditions
  - Present water use restrictions and best practices
- February, 2023: Latest Ordinance 98 adopted
  - Lessened water use restrictions in response to drought reprieve
  - Reduced declared water shortage condition to Stage 1
- Current: 2 consecutive winters with above average rainfall
  - Temporarily free of drought conditions locally and statewide
  - District's 3-year water supply outlook remains favorable
- Update water use ordinance needed to be commensurate with current hydrologic conditions and water supply conditions



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# Proposed Ordinance No. 99

- Water use efficiency is a top District initiative to shore up water supply reliability (Conservation is considered a water source)
- Ordinance No. 99 proposes to:
  - Repeal Ordinance No. 98, the current ordinance declaring a Stage 1 water shortage condition and mandated water use restrictions
  - Establish permanent water use efficiency policies and recommendations
  - Establish permanent water use best practices and the water waste prohibition, irrespective of hydrologic conditions
  - Encourage responsible water use and reduce water waste



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# Proposed Ordinance No. 99

- Consistent with / supported by:
  - *2022 5-year Strategic Plan*
    - Goal of Water Supply Reliability by managing customer demands and establishing community partnerships for efficient water use
  - *2022 Water Use Efficiency Plan*
    - Identifies specific measures to improve water use efficiency
    - Targets permanent reductions in customer water use
  - State's Urban Water Use Objectives



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# Proposed Ordinance No. 99

## Content

### A. Water Use Efficiencies and Best Practices

- Generally unchanged from Ordinance No. 98

### B. Prohibition Against Water Waste

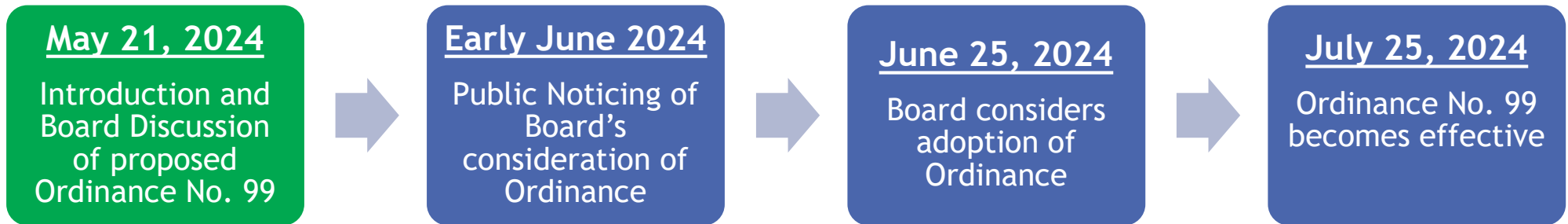
- Examples of water waste provided

### C. Fines for Water Waste

- Authorized pursuant to the Water Code §375-378 et seq
- If collected would fund conservation initiatives and conservation outreach; costs to manage water waste; purchase of water

### D. Appeals

# Proposed Schedule



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# Recommendation

- That the Board of Directors provide discuss proposed Ordinance No. 99, an Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the Montecito Water District Establishing Water Use Efficiency Policies and Recommendations;
- If supportive, consider adoption of Ordinance No. 99 at its June 25, 2024 meeting