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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Redding water savings exceeds state average in May

City of Redding water customers did an excellent job of conserving water during the month of May, using 368 million fewer gallons – a 37.6 percent reduction – compared with the same period in 2013 (the State’s “benchmark” year).

And they surpassed the conservation rate of the state as a whole. Statewide, Californians reduced water use by 28 percent during May, compared with 2013.

The City of Redding also is continuing efforts to conserve, significantly improving efficiency of irrigation and reducing water usage wherever possible. As a result, the City reduced water use for its parks, athletic fields, building landscaping and medians by nearly 41 percent in May, compared with 2013.

Although the mandatory statewide conservation target of 25 percent was lifted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in May, it is requiring each water agency to demonstrate whether it has sufficient supplies for the next three years, assuming drought conditions. Under the new regulations, if an agency has a shortfall, it must cut water use by that amount through January 2017.

In May, Redding’s “Stage 2” restrictions were reduced to “Stage 1,” which calls for voluntary water conservation by customers. Such conservation includes irrigating only between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. and on specific days depending on the address. Other measures, such as irrigation that results in runoff to the adjacent non-irrigated areas, applying water to driveways and sidewalks for routine cleaning, and irrigating within 48 hours after a measureable rainfall are also encompassed in state mandates, which now have been made permanent statewide.

Based on the rainfall last fall and winter and resultant replenishment of area reservoirs and groundwater basins, and residents’ continued conservation, the City of Redding has

adequate water supplies to meet projected demands of its customers through 2017. Although much of Northern California received average or above-normal rainfall this past winter, 60 percent of the state remains in severe or extreme drought, according to the SWRCB. Groundwater basins and many reservoirs are badly depleted as the state's drought moves into a fifth year.

The Water Utility will be required to continue reporting its resulting water use to the State Water Board.

**For more information contact:**

– <http://www.cityofredding.org/departments/public-works/public-works-utilities/water-utility/mandatory-water-use-restrictions>

– [www.reddingwatersmart.com](http://www.reddingwatersmart.com)

– Jon McClain, Assistant Public Works Director, 224-6068

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