

[.com](#)

Santa Maria City Council adopts water conservation measures

City already has low use compared to others in county

15 HOURS AGO • [SHELLY CONE CONTRIBUTING WRITER](#)

In response to state emergency regulations, the [Santa Maria City Council](#) adopted water conservation measures at its meeting Tuesday, although officials say the city already has achieved one of the lowest water usages in the region.

The council unanimously adopted water conservation measures that prohibit water runoff, washing down sidewalks or streets and the use of fountains or water features that don't recirculate. Residents who wash their cars at home must have the hose fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device that causes it to stop dispensing water when not in use.

Director of utilities, Rick Sweet said that unlike other cities in the county, Santa Maria hasn't declared Stage 1 or 2 drought measures because its tiered water rate structure and existing water conservation programs have helped the city achieve a low water usage rate. The measures adopted by the City Council will update the city's municipal code and bring it in compliance with the state's regulations prohibiting wasteful water activities.

Sweet said the city has the ability to fine violators \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offence and \$500 for the third.

"But that's really not what we're trying to do. Education is our primary focus here," Sweet said.

In other business, the council approved the tentative map for the Harvest Glen Gardens Townhomes to move forward. The project map replaces the project's 2006 map approval and allows for smaller lot sizes in exchange for larger common facilities. The developer plans to begin construction mid-2015, said Larry Appel, Community Development director.

The project will be located north of Carmen Lane, south of Sonya Lane, east of Blosser Road and west of Biscayne Street. The project will include 126 units on lots ranging from 2,100 square feet to 6,500 square feet.