RESOLUTION NO. 18-09
(REPEALING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION NO. 17-05)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT
DECLARING A WATER SHORTAGE STAGE AND ASSOCIATED CURTAILMENT TARGET,
AND SETTING OF EMERGENCY WATER RATES

WHEREAS, the local groundwater basin that provides water to the Soquel Creek Water District (District) is in a serious state of overdraft whereby more water is being annually extracted than can be naturally recharged by precipitation; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2014, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Resolution No. 14-22 declaring a Groundwater Emergency due to the long-term overdraft of the coastal aquifers and seawater intrusion; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued Executive Order (EO) B-37-16 directing State Agencies to establish a long-term framework for water conservation and drought planning, building upon the conservation accomplished during the historical drought. The Order has four primary objectives: (1) use water more wisely, (2) eliminate water waste, (3) strengthen local drought resilience, and (4) improve agricultural water use efficiency and drought planning; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2017, in accordance with the directives in EO B-37-16, State Agencies released a final report titled “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life.” The report describes a proposed framework for developing new water use efficiency standards, urban water use targets, and enhanced urban and agricultural water management planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2017, Governor Brown issued EO B-40-17, directing the State Water Board to rescind portions of its existing emergency regulations that require a water supply stress test or mandatory conservation standard for urban water agencies. This Executive Order also directs the State Water Board to continue development of permanent prohibitions on wasteful water use, permanent requirements for reporting water use by urban water agencies, and to continue portions of the emergency regulations that prohibit certain wasteful water practices and require water use reporting as a bridge until permanent requirements are in place; and

WHEREAS, the District and its customers have continuously been in various stages of water supply shortage since 2012 due to low rainfall (correlated to estimated recharge) and/or the presence of a Groundwater Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2017, the Board declared an ongoing Stage 3 Water Shortage Stage with a curtailment target of 25% in accordance with Resolution No. 17-05; and

WHEREAS, 2017 modeling of the seawater-freshwater interface offshore of the District’s service area shows seawater not far offshore in shallow aquifer layers from which the District pumps; and
WHEREAS California Water Code sections 350 et seq. authorize water suppliers to declare a water shortage emergency and to adopt such regulations and restrictions to conserve the water supply for the greatest public benefit with particular regard for domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Soquel Creek Water District that the District hereby declares that there is a Stage 3 Water Supply Shortage and implements the following actions and measures to manage the water supply shortage:
1. Continue to enforce the District’s Water Waste Ordinance No. 14-01.
2. Enact Stage 3 Emergency Rates
3. Enact and enforce demand reduction actions and measures for Stage 3 as outlined in District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan, or with noted changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Directors that the General Manager or his/her designee of the Soquel Creek Water District is directed to determine additional appropriate actions and measures from the District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan that may be necessary to address the water supply shortage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the water shortage stage, associated curtailment target and demand reduction actions, and Emergency Rates shall remain in effect through at least March 31, 2019 unless and until rescinded by the Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT this 17th day of April 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors LaHue, Daniels, Jaffe, Christensen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Director Lather
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVE:

Dr. Bruce Daniels, President

ATTEST:

Karen Reese, Board Clerk