## **RESOLUTION NO. 2025–09**

## SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS' WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE, INCLUDING PLANNED MULTI-YEAR REDUCTIONS IN THE WATER CONSERVATION FACTOR TO REDUCE OUTDOOR WATER USE

## PURISSIMA HILLS WATER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the State of California has experienced frequent droughts, many of which have been severe, and drought conditions continue to be a reality, including forecasted longer and more intense drought periods within the Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) service territory, the Town of Los Altos Hills, and SFPUC water supply territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the PHWD relies entirely on water supply provided by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Regional Water System to serve its customers, including the Town of Los Altos Hills; and

**WHEREAS**, outdoor irrigation is the largest use of potable water supply within the PHWD service territory; and

WHEREAS, over the last 10 years, the average annual water use by PHWD customers per parcel has been 350 CCF of water, with the annual low during that period of 300 CCF having occurred in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, all new and proposed landscaping projects, including those within the PHWD service territory, are reviewed by the Town of Los Altos Hills; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Los Altos Hills adopted a state-certified Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO), which regulates outdoor irrigation and focuses on site-specific drought resistant and water conservation design and long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, for an average parcel, the Town's existing WELO establishes a maximum annual landscaping budget of 541 CCF, which exceeds the average annual water use by PHWD customers of 350 CCF; and

WHEREAS, the Town's WELO was last updated in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Planning Commission recently held study sessions and public meetings considering amendments and revisions to its WELO to further reduce outdoor water use, which resulted in the following recommended changes:

Immediately lower the Water Conservation Factor from 0.8 to 0.65; and

- Lower the Water Conservation Factor by an additional 0.1 (from 0.65) to a new level of 0.55 by January 1, 2028; and by an additional 0.1 (from 0.55) to 0.45 by January 1, 2031; and
- Increase the current landscape project deposit of \$5,000 by an amount deemed reasonable by the City Council when it considers the Town's fee schedule updates; and

**WHEREAS**, the PHWD actively promotes water conservation and supports all community and customer efforts to reduce outdoor irrigation and water use; and

**WHEREAS**, the PHWD further supports the Town of Los Altos Hills in its proposed WELO changes, particularly the immediate and phased reductions in the Water Conservation Factor, ultimately resulting in a reduced landscape water budget allocation limit of 356 CCF by January 1, 2031.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors for the Purissima Hills Water District declares its support for the Town Council's adoption of the amended Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance proposed by the Town's Planning Commission, including the immediate and phased reductions in the Water Conservation Factor, resulting in a reduced landscape water budget allocation limit of 356 CCF by January 1, 2031.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, by the following votes:

AYES: Directors Glassman, Holtz, Jordan, Stone and Ranganthan.

NOES:

**ABSTENTIONS:** 

**ABSENCES:** 

ATTEST:

Secretary of the District

President, Board of Directors Purissima Hills Water District