Stanford University

PERSIS S. DRELL
Provost

April 11, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

This letter addresses the much-improved California water supply and resulting changes in our campus water policy, relaxing previous water use restrictions.

First, however, **thank you** for your diligent response to the drought! The campus community has achieved impressive water savings, due to both departmental and individual efforts across the campus. Between 2013 and 2016, domestic water use decreased by 35 percent (due in large part to the new SESI energy plant), and non-potable water use decreased by 28 percent. The campus saved approximately 800 million gallons of water during the years 2014, 2015, and 2016 compared to its baseline use in 2013.

In June 2015, then-Provost Etchemendy issued a letter limiting irrigation of all campus lawns and ornamental landscapes using domestic water to two days per week. Additionally, he asked users of the non-potable irrigation system to reduce their water use 25 percent below 2013 same-month levels.

As a result of the dramatically improved water and snow conditions in California this past winter, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the wholesale supplier of domestic water on campus, has now removed its voluntary 10 percent reduction request. Also, Governor Brown has ended the drought emergency across most of the state, though he has emphasized that water efficiency must remain a way of life in California. I, too, ask that you continue to be diligent with your water efficiency efforts and maintain as many of the water conservation practices of the last few years as possible.

The two-days-per-week watering restriction for domestic water is now lifted, as is the request for 25 percent reduction in non-potable irrigation water use. However, the water-wasting practices (shown on the next page) that have been adopted by the State of California as permanent prohibitions will also continue to be prohibited at Stanford.

We will continue to work to improve the water efficiency of our campus water systems and plumbing fixtures. Please call the LBRE facilities customer service center at 650-723-2281 to report any observed water leaks or excessive runoff from over-irrigation, and to suggest other possible opportunities for water conservation. For further information or questions please contact Tom Zigterman, Director of Water Resources & Civil Infrastructure, at twz@stanford.edu or 650-725-3400.

Thanks, again, for your past response and for your continued efforts in water conservation.

Sincerely,

Persis S. Drell

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Permanently prohibited water-wasting practices:

1) The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;
2) The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
3) The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks (except for health and safety needs);
4) The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
5) The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measureable rainfall;
6) The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased; and
7) The irrigation with potable water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.