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For Immediate Release

Oro Valley Drought Conditions Change to Stage 1 ***Officials request continued volunteer conservation efforts***

ORO VALLEY, AZ (Oct. 4, 2007) — The Town of Oro Valley has reduced the drought conditions in the community to Stage 1 based on local and regional climatic conditions and forecasts. This is a change from the Stage 2 Drought declaration that has been in effect since May of this year.

The drought stages and related actions are spelled out in a resolution adopted by the Oro Valley Town Council in November, 2006.

Although the monsoon rains provided some relief—along with strong citizen response to the call to reduce water use—Oro Valley continues to see 98 degree heat or higher for 40 days or more. In addition, the United States Drought Monitor continues to list our area in a moderate drought stage, according to Philip Saletta, Water Utility director.

“Because of this, we’d like to ask our citizens to continue to voluntarily engage in water conservation,” he said. “Although this year we have received an average amount of rainfall, the long-term drought in the southwestern part of the country still persists.”

During drought conditions, Water Utility officials are asking the public to participate in the following measures:

- Voluntary reduction of all household water use by 10% for those customers using more than 4,000 gallons monthly
- Voluntary reduction in landscape watering by 10% for commercial customers
- Voluntary reduction in landscape watering by 5% for reclaimed customers

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Other conservation actions Saletta recommends include:

- Do not water outside during the hottest part of the day. Water outside in the early morning, evening or nighttime
- Cover swimming pools to minimize evaporation
- Check irrigation system automatic timers and adjust if necessary
- Check irrigation system for leaks, overspray or runoff

"Oro Valley has more than a sufficient supply of water, but this response is intended to make prudent use of that water during a time of regional drought conditions to reduce impacts on our groundwater supplies," Saletta said. "Conditions will be monitored weekly and updates to drought conditions made quarterly."

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