



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 435-9421
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO ALLOW EVERY DAY IRRIGATION

WAKE FOREST, NC – May 2, 2012 – The Raleigh City Council unanimously voted during its regular May 1 meeting to eliminate the alternate-day outdoor watering requirement which is a part of the City’s permanent conservation measures. The action will modify section 8-2175 of the City Water Conservation Ordinance to permit outdoor watering on any day of the week. The change goes into effect immediately and applies to all City of Raleigh water customers, including those in nearby towns that merged their water and sewer systems with Raleigh. Those towns are Wake Forest, Garner, Rolesville, Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon.

Based upon current water levels in Falls Lake and Lake Benson, and long-term precipitation forecasts, it is not anticipated that this modification to the City Ordinance will result in a shortfall in the supply of drinking water in 2012. Both Falls Lake and Lake Benson are 100 percent full and the extended precipitation forecast for central North Carolina indicates equal chances for normal precipitation and no strong La Nina or El Nino signals.

This change will help make it possible for landscaping companies and residential users to program irrigation controllers optimally. The passage of this change eliminates the Landscape Establishment Permit requirement.

The current alternate-day watering restrictions were originally implemented in an effort to reduce the total peak water use impact on a given day, and to raise general awareness of outdoor water conservation practices. The Council also implemented a tiered water rate system that helped reduce the use of potable water for irrigation purposes.

This change does not affect stages 1, 2, or 3 of the water Shortage Response Plan, which remain consistent with other Triangle area water utilities. The City Council asks that residents continue to use water efficiently and wisely.

The Raleigh City Council’s decision also does not affect Wake Forest’s ordinance prohibiting the issuance of new permits for the construction of manual or automatic in-ground irrigation systems within the town. The ban, which was enacted in 2008, applies to all manual or

automatic in-ground irrigation systems proposed to be connected to the City of Raleigh's public potable water system.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.