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SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT  
ORDINANCE NO. 206

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT ESTABLISHING A  
WATER CONSERVATION & WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE PROGRAM  
FOR USERS OF POTABLE WATER PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT**

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Section I. Title

**South Coast Water District Water Conservation & Water Supply Shortage Ordinance (“Ordinance”)**

Section II. Findings

1. **A reliable minimum supply of potable water is essential** to the public health, safety and welfare of the people and economy of Southern California.
2. **Southern California is a semi-arid region, largely dependent on imported water** supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River. Population growth, drought, climate change, environmental concerns, government policy changes, restrictions on pumping and other factors in our region, in other parts of the State and in the western U.S. make Southern California highly-susceptible to water supply reliability issues.
3. **Careful water management requires active conservation measures** not only in times of drought but at all times. It is essential to ensure a reliable minimum supply of water to meet current and future water supply needs.
4. **California Constitution Article X, Section 2** declares for the general welfare:
  - a. Water resources be put to beneficial use
  - b. Prevention of water waste and unreasonable water use or methods of water use
  - c. Full exercise of water conservation with a view to reasonable and beneficial water use

5. **California Water Code Section 375** authorizes water suppliers to adopt and enforce a comprehensive water conservation program to reduce potable water consumption and conserve supplies. Section 375 requires a noticed public meeting and public hearing.
6. **California Water Code Section 31027** sets forth the public notification requirements for water providers adopting requirements by ordinance.
7. **California Water Code Sections 350, et. seq.,** set forth the determination and notification procedures for water suppliers seeking to declare a water shortage emergency condition.
8. **California Water Code Section 356** allows for the adoption of regulations and restrictions that include discontinuance of service as an enforcement option where a water shortage emergency condition has been declared.
9. **California Water Code Section 377** authorizes water suppliers to enforce a comprehensive water conservation program by declaring that violations of adopted programs constitute misdemeanor violations.
10. **Health and Safety Code Section 5471** authorizes the District to apply charges or fees to persons or entities for services and facilities provided by the District, including, but not limited to, fees and charges for recovery of administrative and enforcement costs.
11. **California Water Code Section 370, et. seq.,** authorizes water suppliers to adopt water allocation programs for water users and allocation-based water conservation pricing.
12. **California Water Code Sections 13550 and 13551** declare a statewide policy that the use of potable domestic water for irrigation purposes when reclaimed (recycled) water is available constitutes a waste or unreasonable use of water within the meaning of the State Constitution.
13. **South Coast Water District Resolution No. 23-85/86** requires that future developments utilize reclaimed (recycled) water wherever economically and technically feasible within the boundaries of the District in order to conserve potable water for the purposes of human consumption and fire protection.
14. **The adoption and enforcement of a Water Conservation & Water Supply Shortage Ordinance is necessary to manage the District's potable water supply** short- and long-term and to minimize and/or avoid the effects of drought and water shortage within the District. Such a program is essential to ensure a reliable and sustainable minimum supply of water for public health, safety and welfare.