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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**FIRST TAXING DISTRICT WATER DEPARTMENT
URGES VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION**

The First Taxing District Water Department urges voluntary conservation. With a lack of significant rainfall, and as a result of the Connecticut Department of Public Health's advisory for water conservation, the First Taxing District Water Department (District) is asking its customers to conserve water and reduce non-essential outdoor water use. Fairfield County is currently experiencing conditions of "moderate drought" due to an extended dry spell, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

With below average rainfall and high water demand compared to the same period last year, the First District's reservoirs are below normal capacity.

As a result the District is requesting that customers reduce outdoor water use by limiting lawn irrigation to a maximum of twice a week (customers can select any two days) if they are using an irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler. Use of a hand-held hose for watering is allowed at any time.

Frank N. Zullo, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners said "It is important that all of our customers assist in this voluntary effort to assure that they have the water they need when they need it."

Among the recommendations by the EPA are:

- Allow grass to grow longer; taller grass is healthier and requires less water.
- Use brooms or blowers instead of water to clean decks, driveways and sidewalks.
- Don't wash cars or boats with a hose.
- Shut off ornamental water displays.
- Do not leave water running while washing hands, shaving, or brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Hand wash dishes in a basin, not under running water.
- Repair leaks in plumbing fixtures.

Visit https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/pubs/simple_steps.html for additional water conserving tips.

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