



# Water Conservation Program Update 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr FY2016

## Resource Management Commission

February 16, 2016

Mark Jordan

Conservation Program Coordinator

# FY2016 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Overview

- Public Input on Once-a-Week Watering
- RFP on Integrated Water Resources Plan
- Long term weather forecast and lake level projections



# What is Being Considered?

- Revise City Code & Drought Contingency Plan
- Establish permanent once-per-week watering restrictions
- Adjust other water use restrictions and variances based on feedback and potential water savings
- Maintain effective, enforceable code
- Present best option to Council by April/May



# Why once a week?

- Watering restrictions biggest, most reliable water savings measure
- Cost-effective, long term water supply strategy
- Long term weather patterns changing
- Other irrigation advisory programs support feasibility
- Further encourage customers to:
  - more closely monitor and maintain their irrigation systems
  - implement irrigation best management practices
  - install less water intensive landscapes
  - consider using onsite sources of water



# Why now?

- Lessons learned from drought still fresh on water efficient irrigation and landscaping practices
- Delay in lifting restriction until April will not affect customer irrigation plans
- Delay will avoid any confusion from jumping from once-a-week to twice-a-week watering and then back to once-a-week over a short period of time should city council approve the proposal.

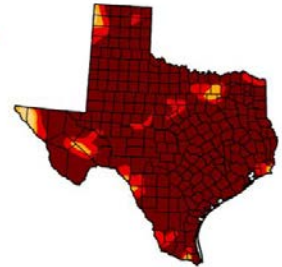
**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
Texas

October 4, 2011  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.99	87.99
Last Week (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
3 Months Ago (07/03/2011 map)	2.41	97.59	95.73	94.39	90.21	71.30
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2011 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/01/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (09/04/2010 map)	75.57	24.43	2.43	0.99	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry  
D1 Drought - Moderate  
D2 Drought - Severe  
D3 Drought - Extreme  
D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

# What Have We Heard So Far?

- Strong opinions on both sides
- Need to protect investments (landscape, foundations, cars)
- Concerns about over-regulation
- Questions about response to future drought conditions/LCRA requirements
- Rising costs: water prices, car washes, landscape changes
- Belief that once per week is adequate and overdue



# Next Steps

- Collect and summarize public input
- Draft amendments & review with management
- Presentations to Boards and Commissions expected in March (concurrent with Law Dept review)\*
- Proposed changes before Council in April/May\*

*\* Opportunities for Citizen Communication/Comment on agenda item*



# Integrated Water Resources Plan

<https://austintexas.gov/aiwrpctf>

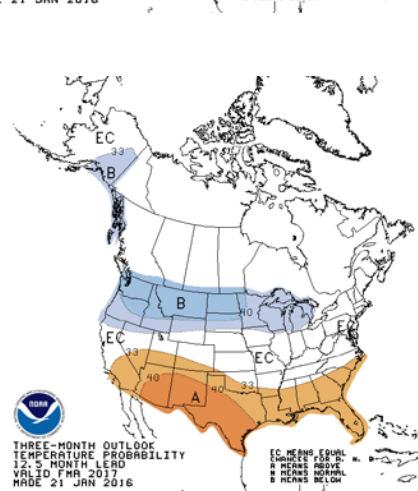
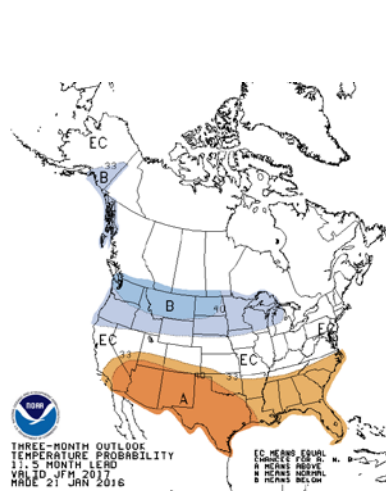
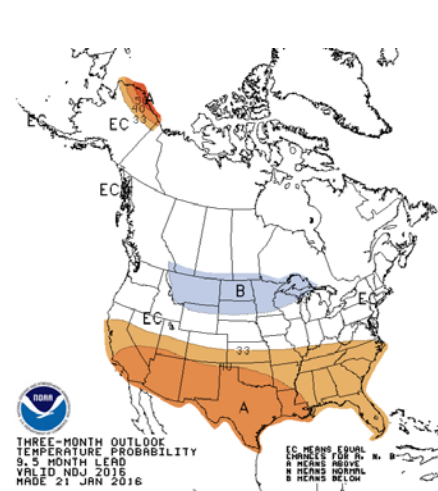
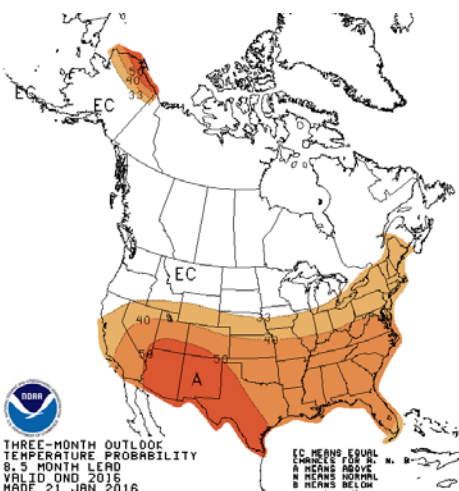
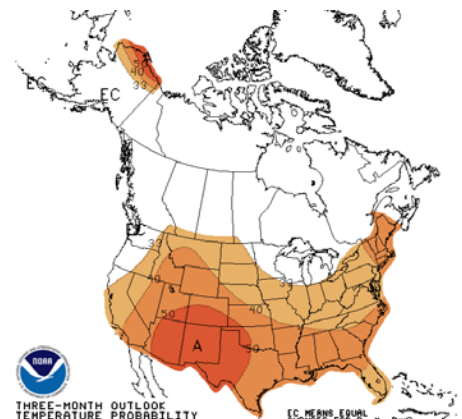
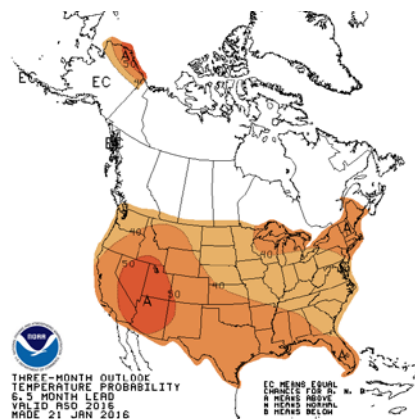
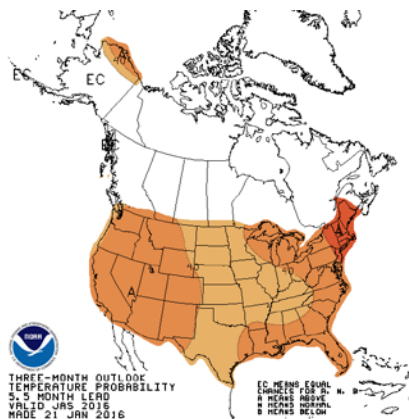
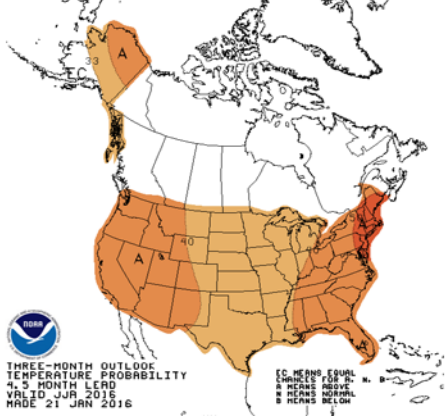
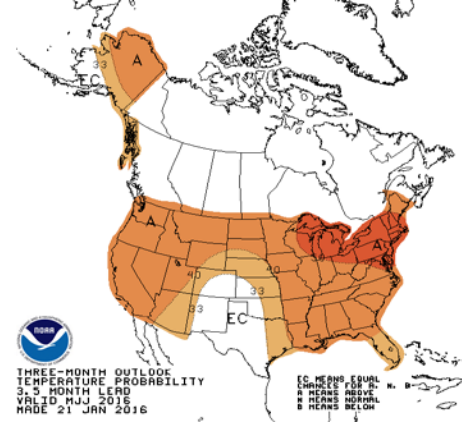
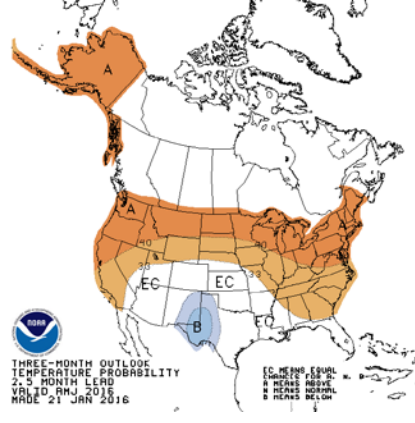
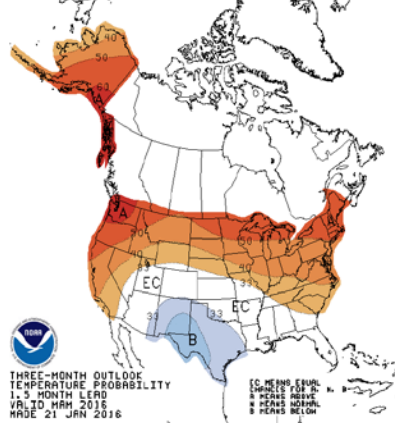
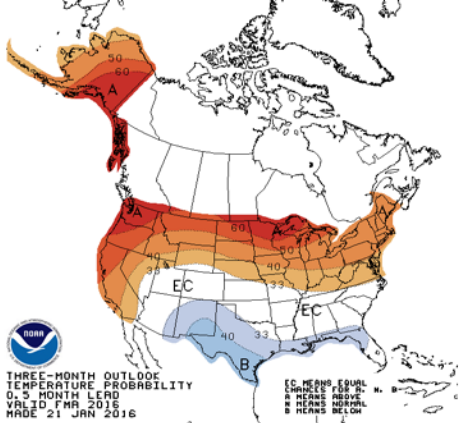
- Staff recommendation to negotiate contract with CDM Smith not to exceed \$1 Million
- Council action expected later this month
- Scope includes:
  - evaluate Austin's long term water needs
  - examine and make recommendations on potential water supply/demand management strategies
  - conduct an independent conservation program assessment including water savings calculations and cost benefit methodology



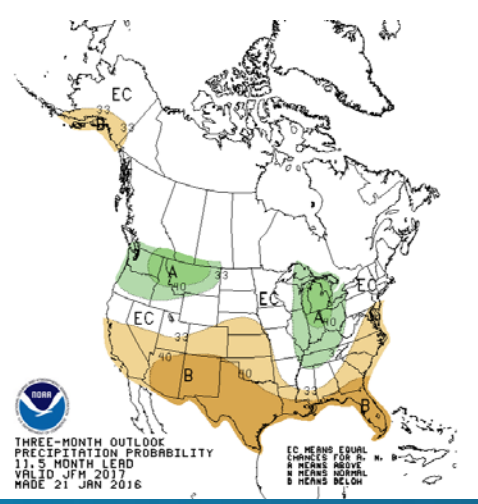
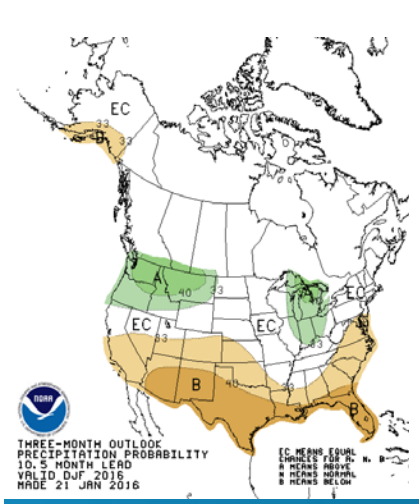
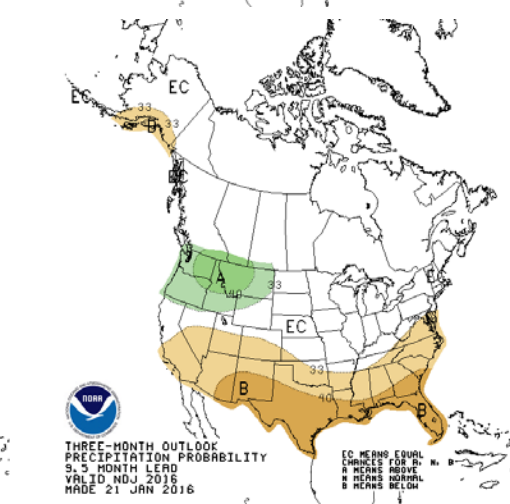
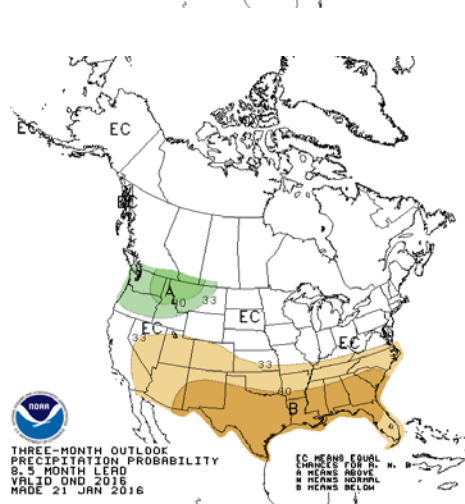
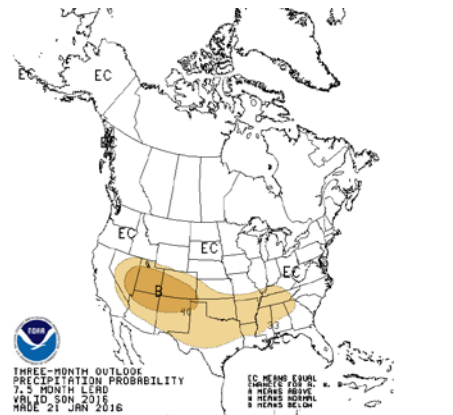
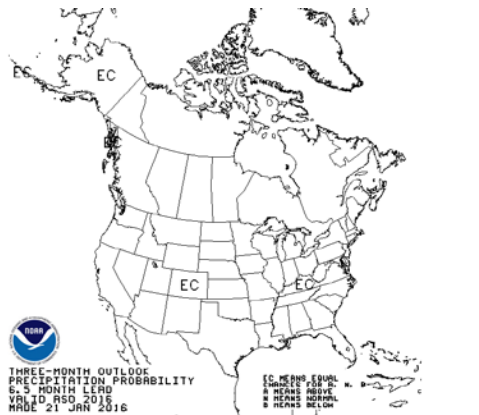
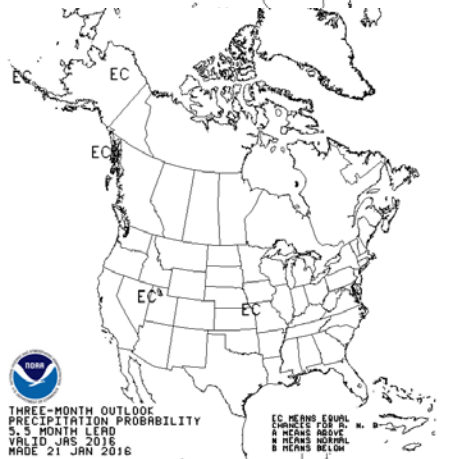
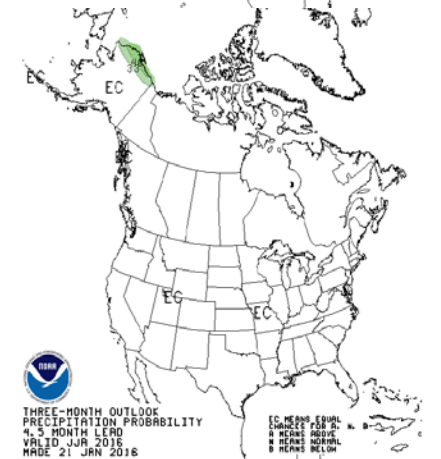
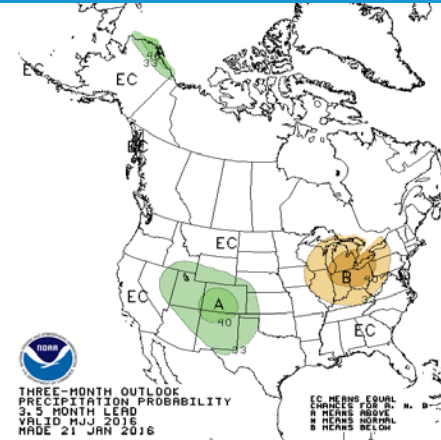
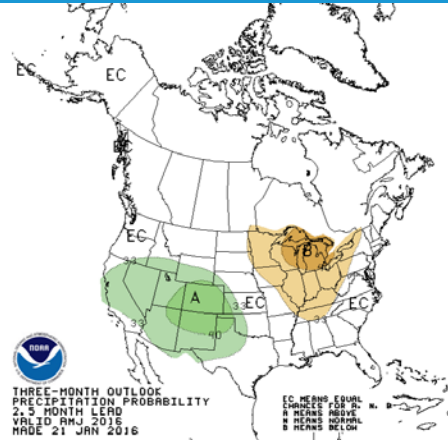
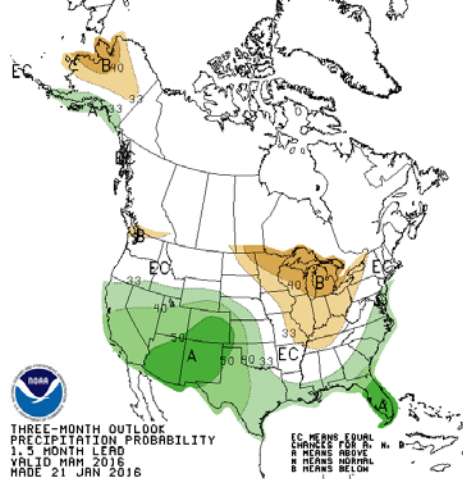
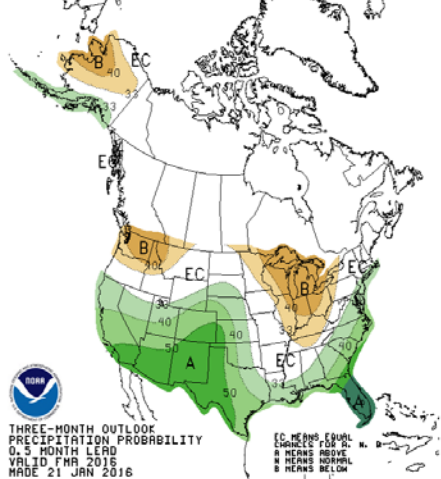


# A Return to Drier Conditions?









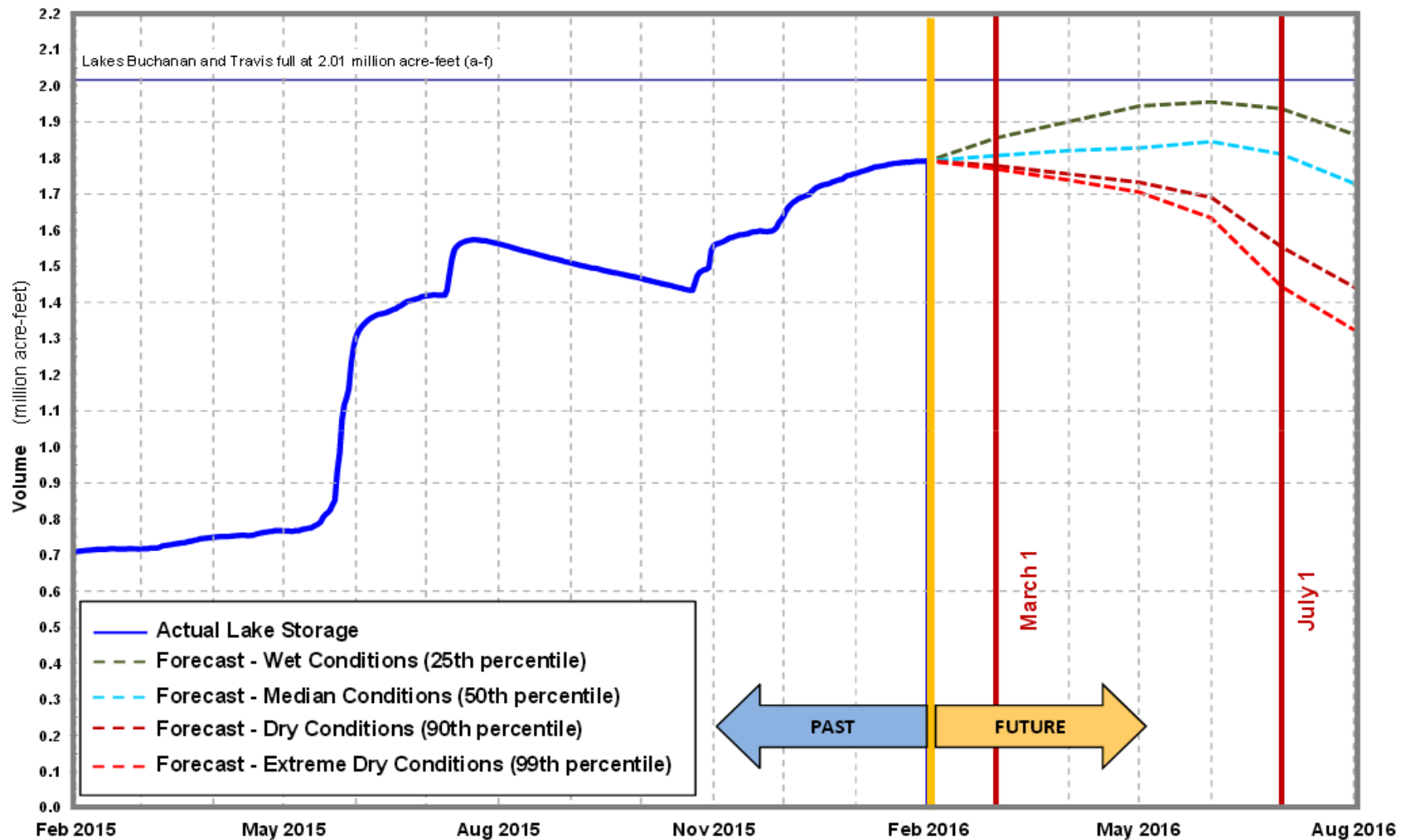
# Lake levels

- Combined storage has risen to over 1.79 AF or 89% of capacity, compared to 703,500 AF or 35% of capacity in Jan. 2015
- Travis was 9 feet above January average, and has risen 54 feet since January 2015; Buchanan is 2 feet above January average, and has risen 26 feet
- January inflows were about 68% of monthly average, but highest January total since 2010





## Lakes Buchanan and Travis Total Combined Storage Projections \*



Note: One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons.

Date: February 1, 2016

\* Based on results from the draft stochastic model under development to reflect provisions of the recently approved Water Management Plan.



**Mark Jordan**

**Water Conservation Program Coordinator**

**(512) 974-3901**

[mark.jordan@austintexas.gov](mailto:mark.jordan@austintexas.gov)

[www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org)

# Speak Up Austin Survey Results

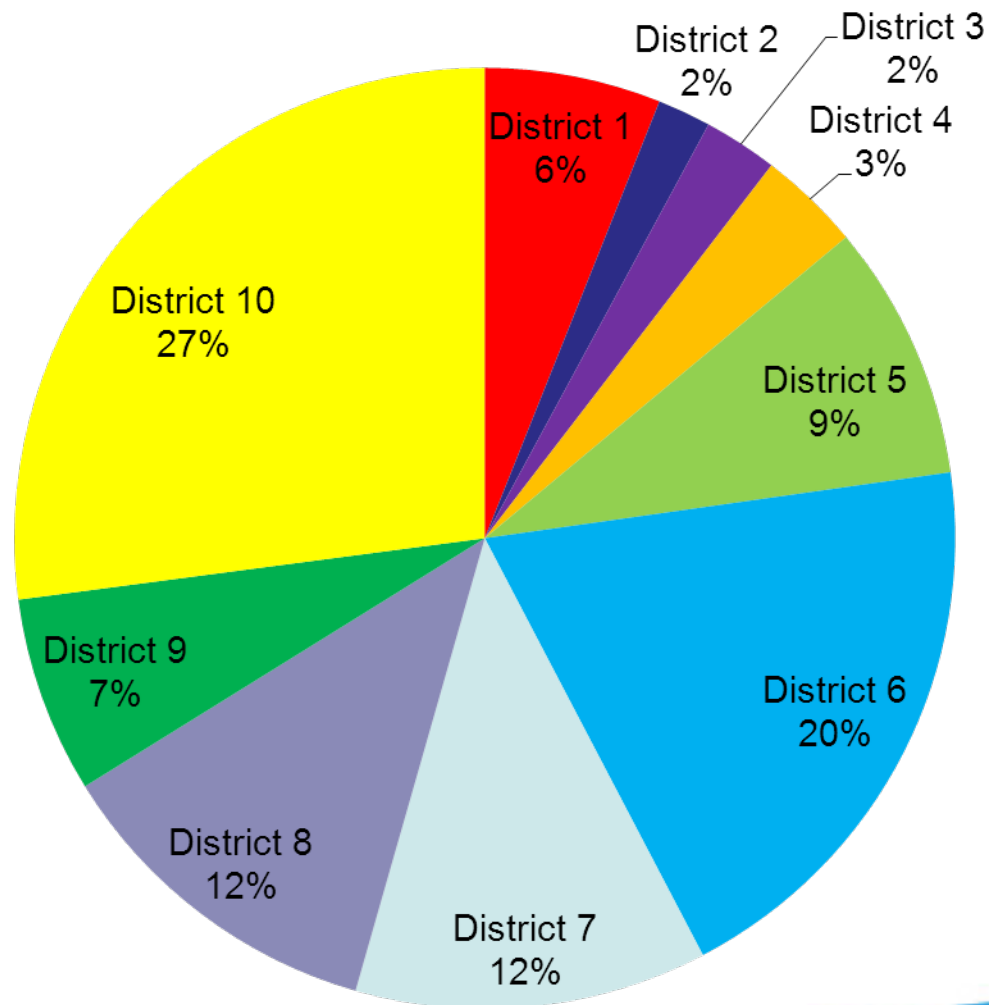
**<http://www.austintexas.gov/onedayperweek>**

# Survey Summary

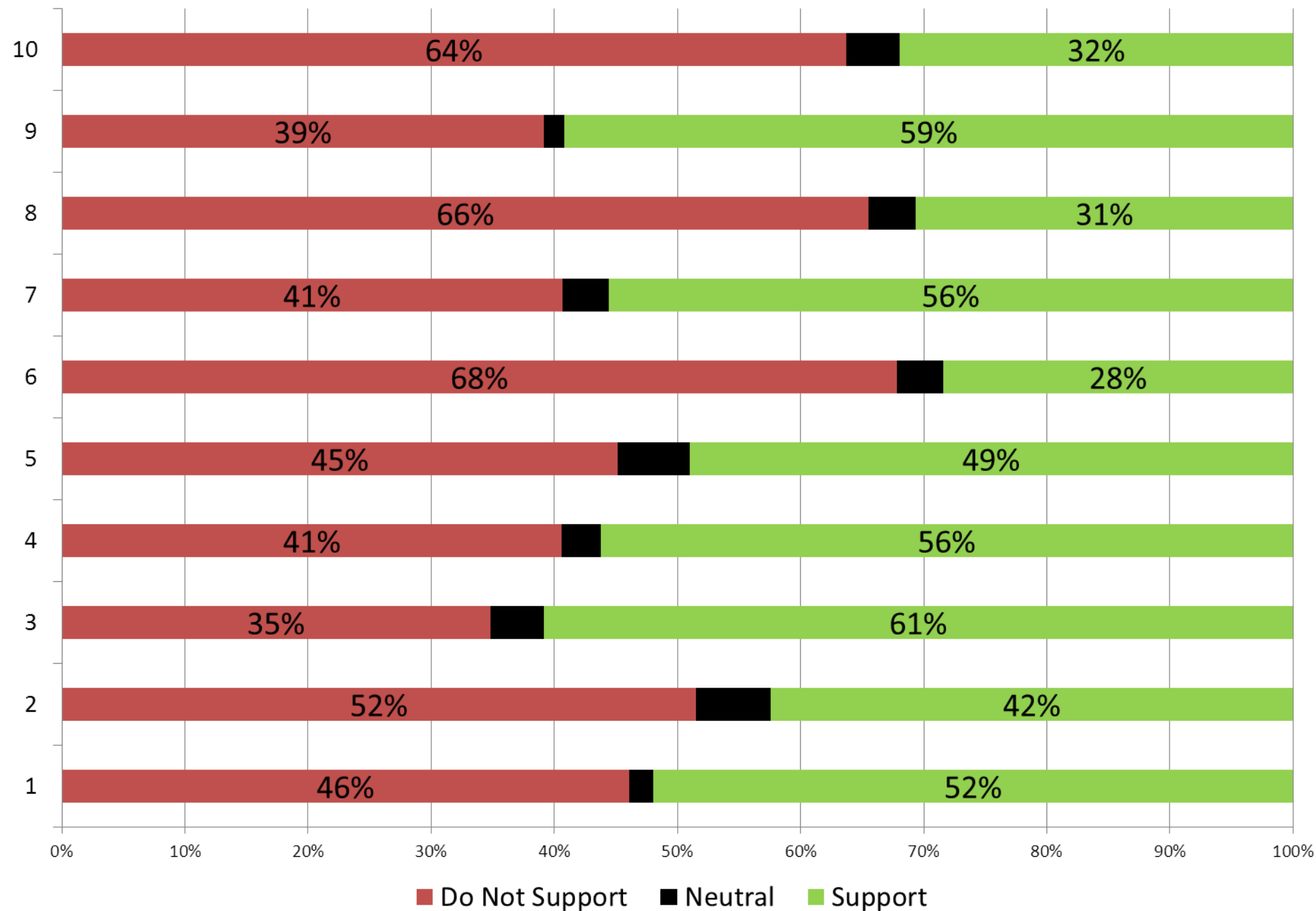
- 93 people came to 7 public input meetings; 1,769 responded to survey
- Majority of survey respondents did not support permanent once per week restrictions
- Survey participation strongest in Districts 6 & 10
- Majority of respondents in 5 of 10 districts supported once per week
- Majority supported looser restrictions on car washing, hose-end sprinklers, pressure washing



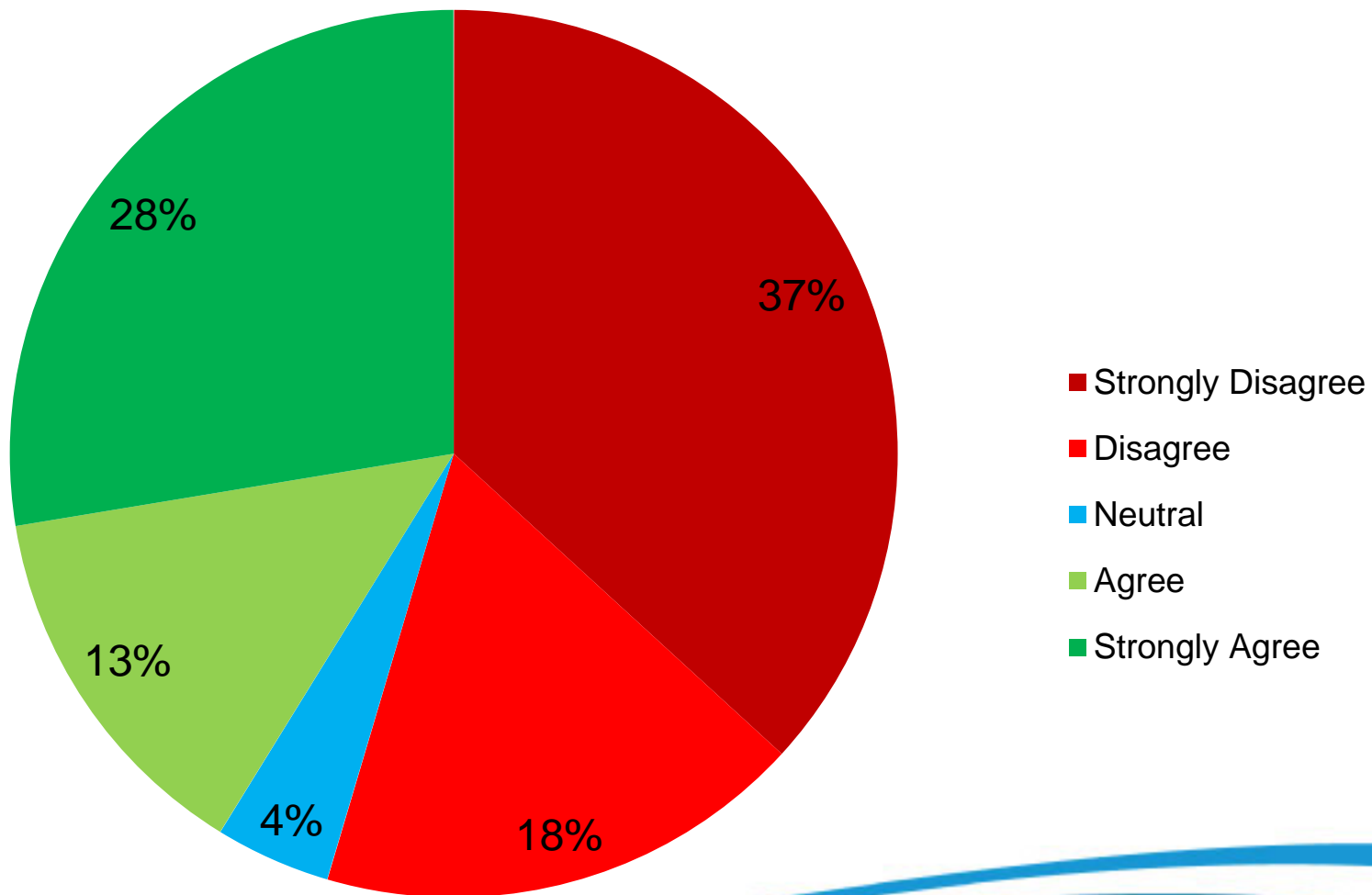
## Survey Responses by District



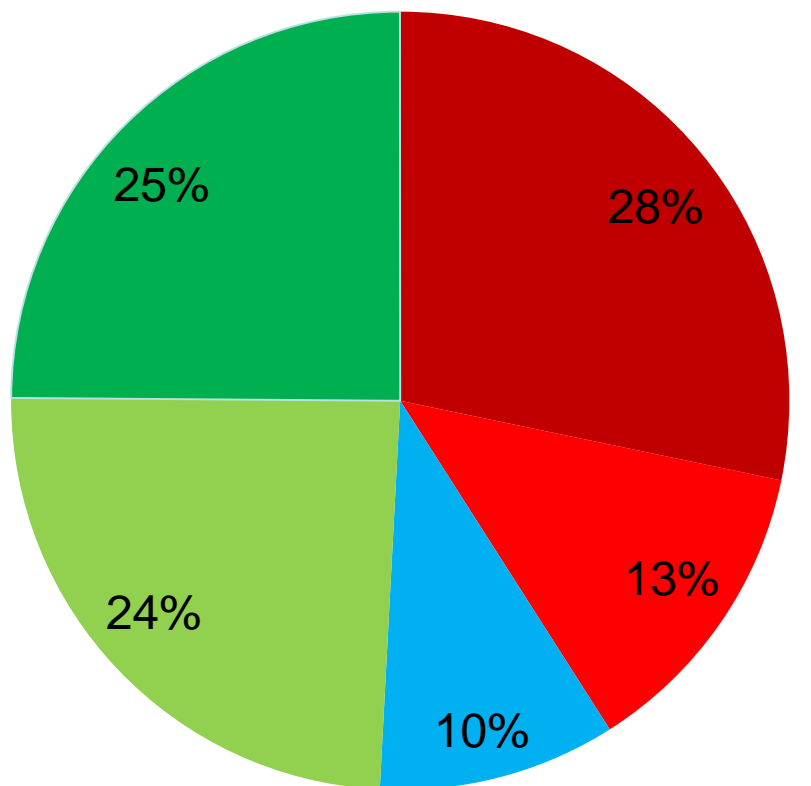
## Results by District: Once-per-Week Watering



## One Day Watering Is Enough For My Needs

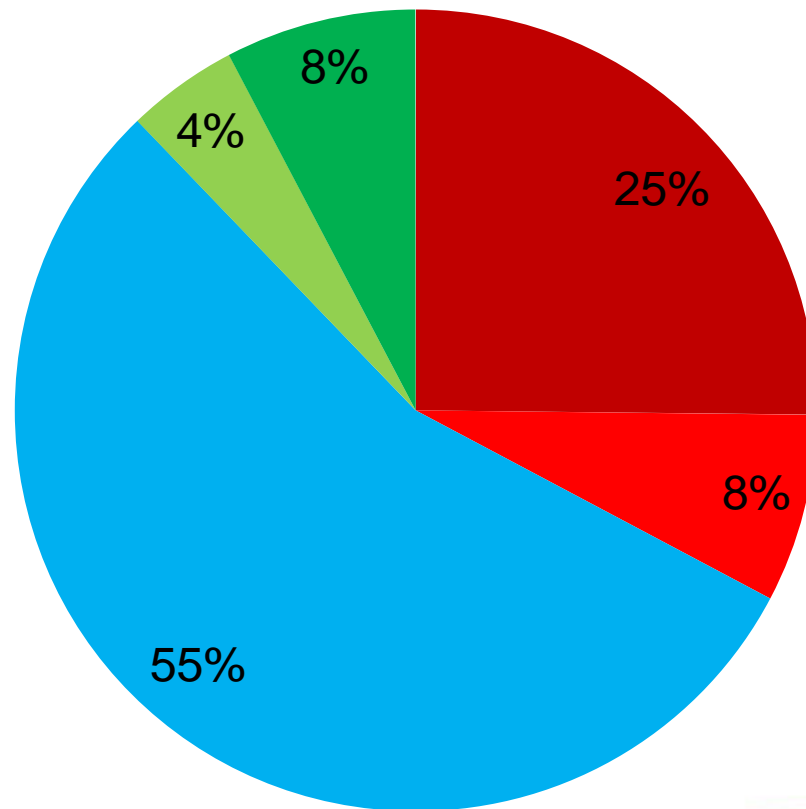


## Once a Week Has Negatively Affected Me/My Family



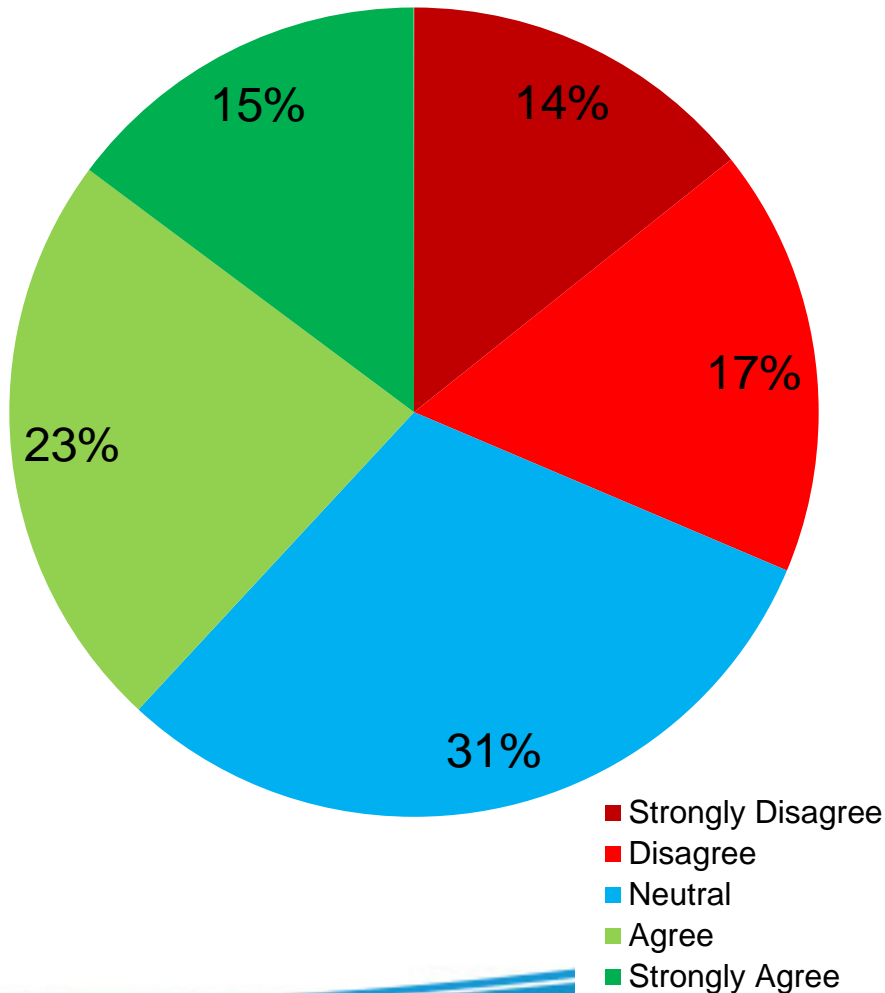
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

## Once Per Week Has Negatively Affected My Business

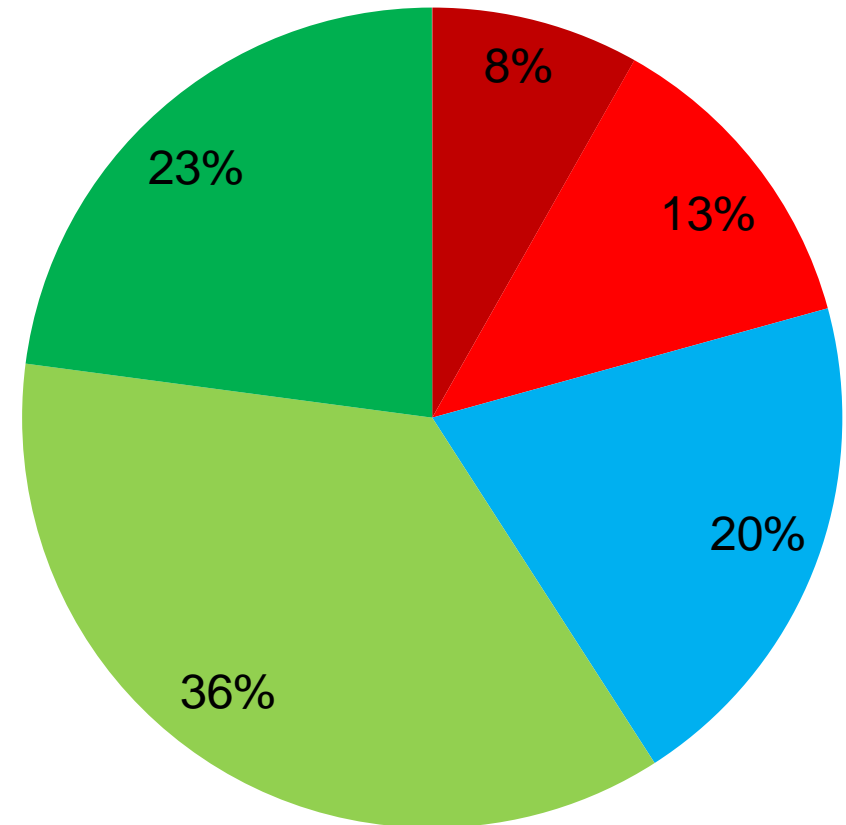




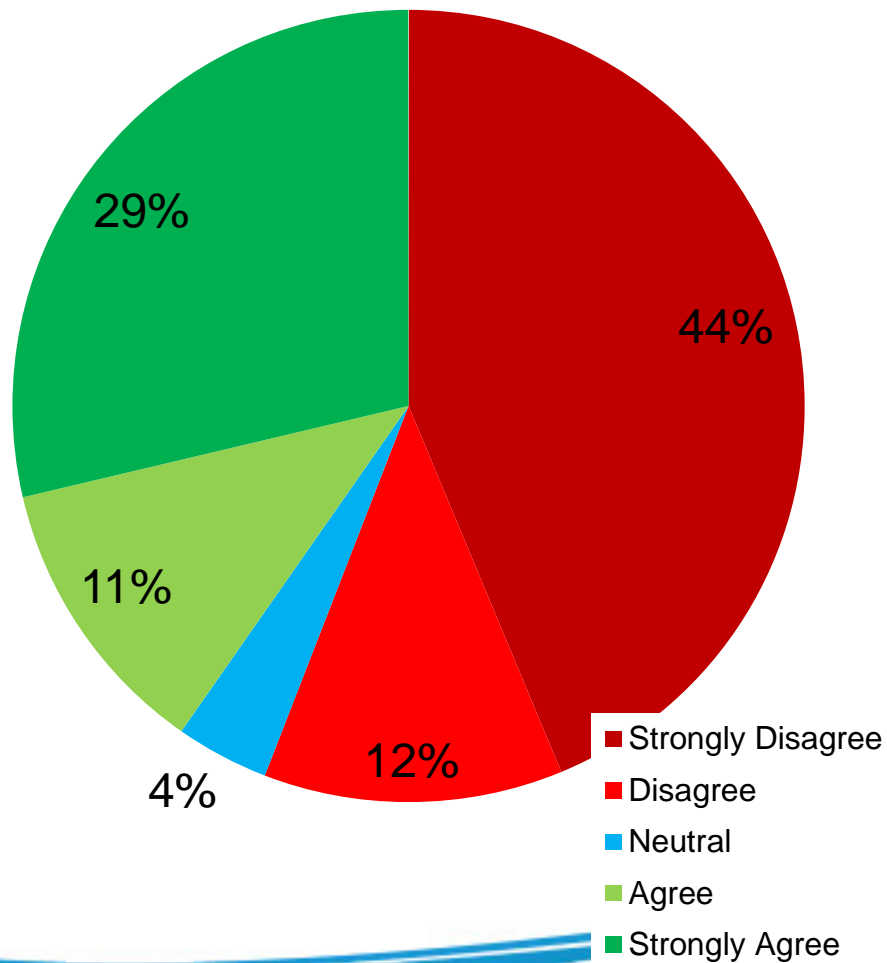
## I Have Made Irrigation Upgrades Because of Restrictions



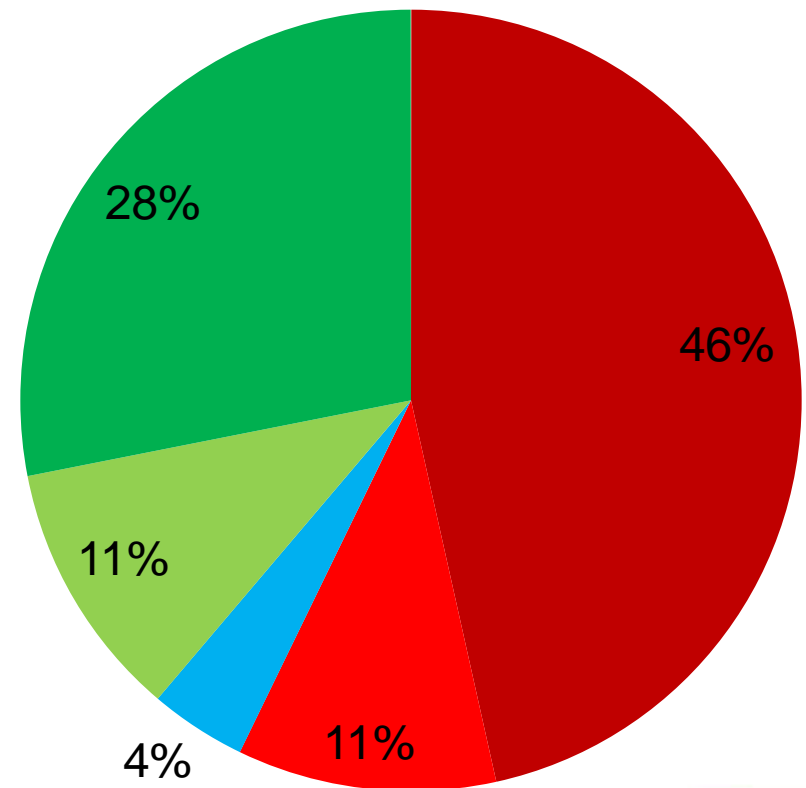
## I Have Made Landscaping Changes Because of Restrictions



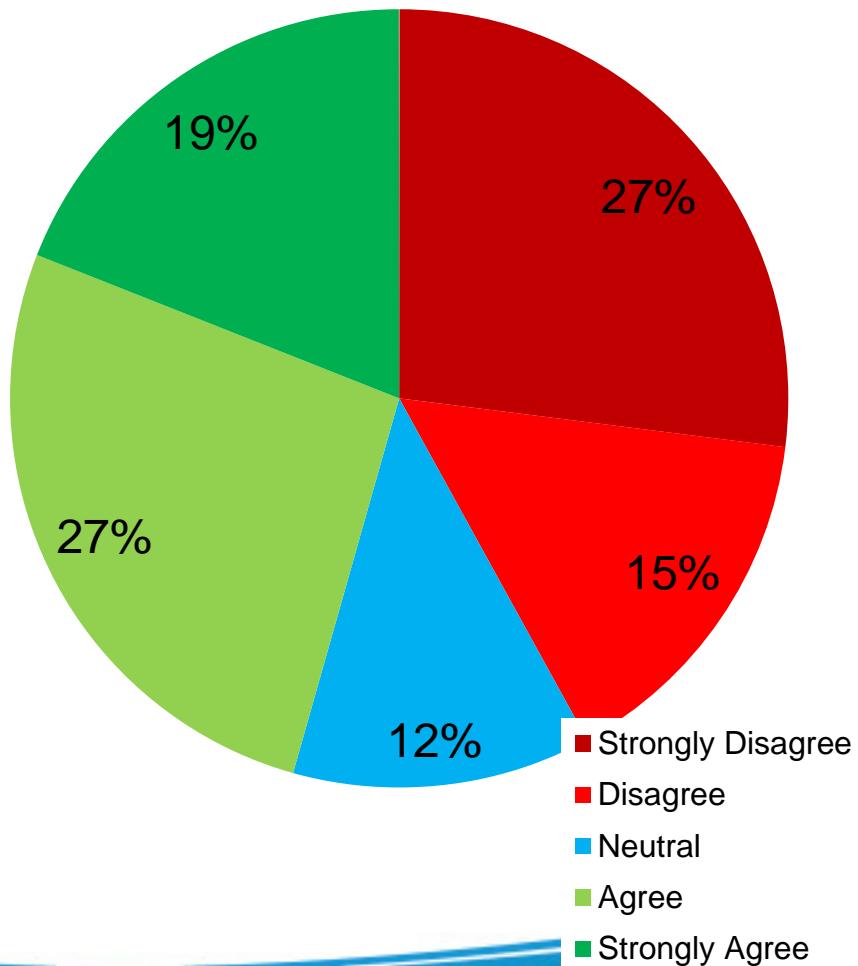
## I Support A Permanent One Day Per Week Schedule To Conserve the Region's Water Supply



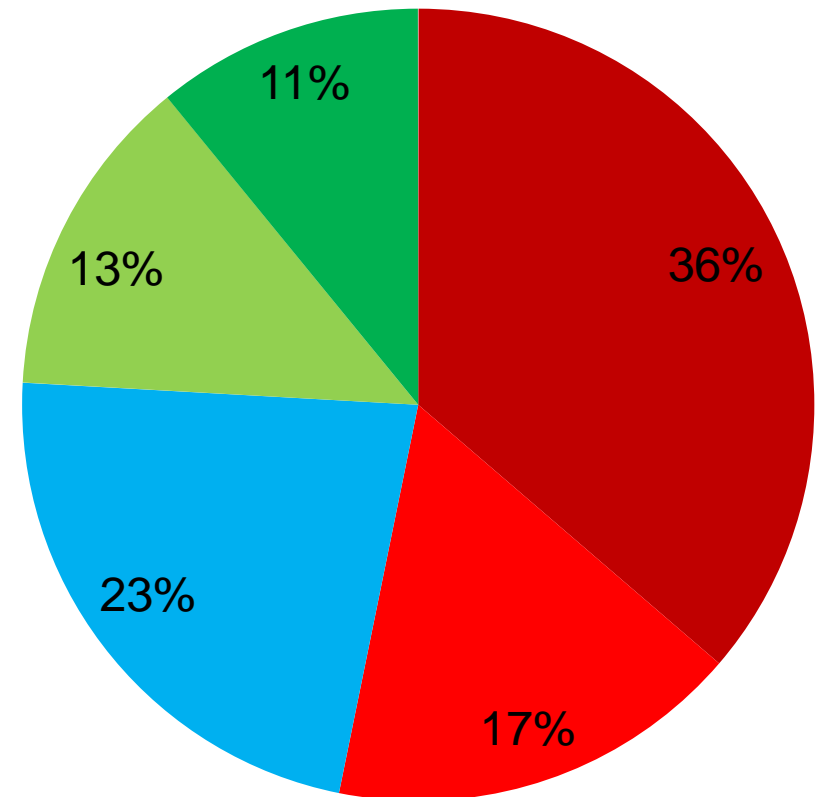
## I Would Support Permanent, Year-Round One Day Per Week Watering Restrictions



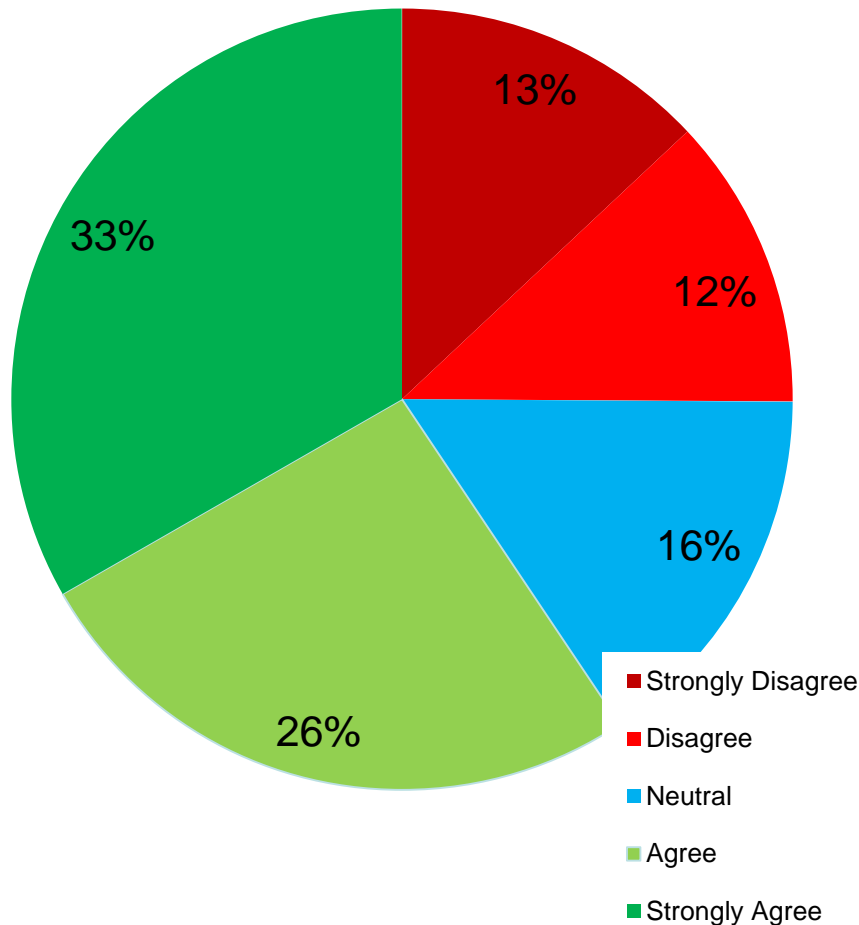
## I Would Support Seasonal Once per Week Restrictions



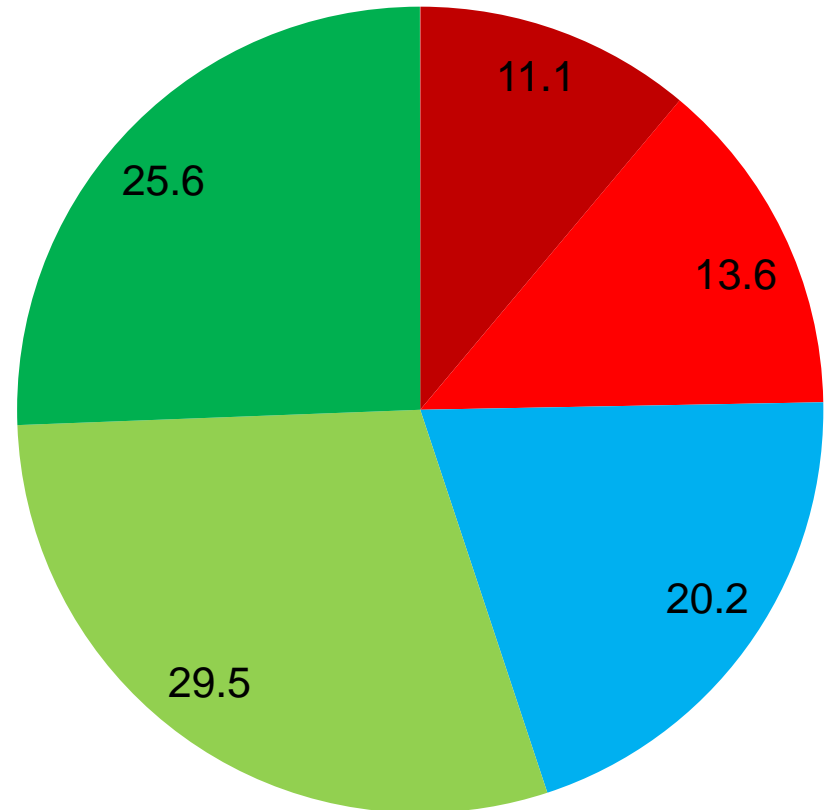
## I Would Support Once per Week if Other Restrictions Loosened



## Support Looser Restrictions on At-Home Car Washing

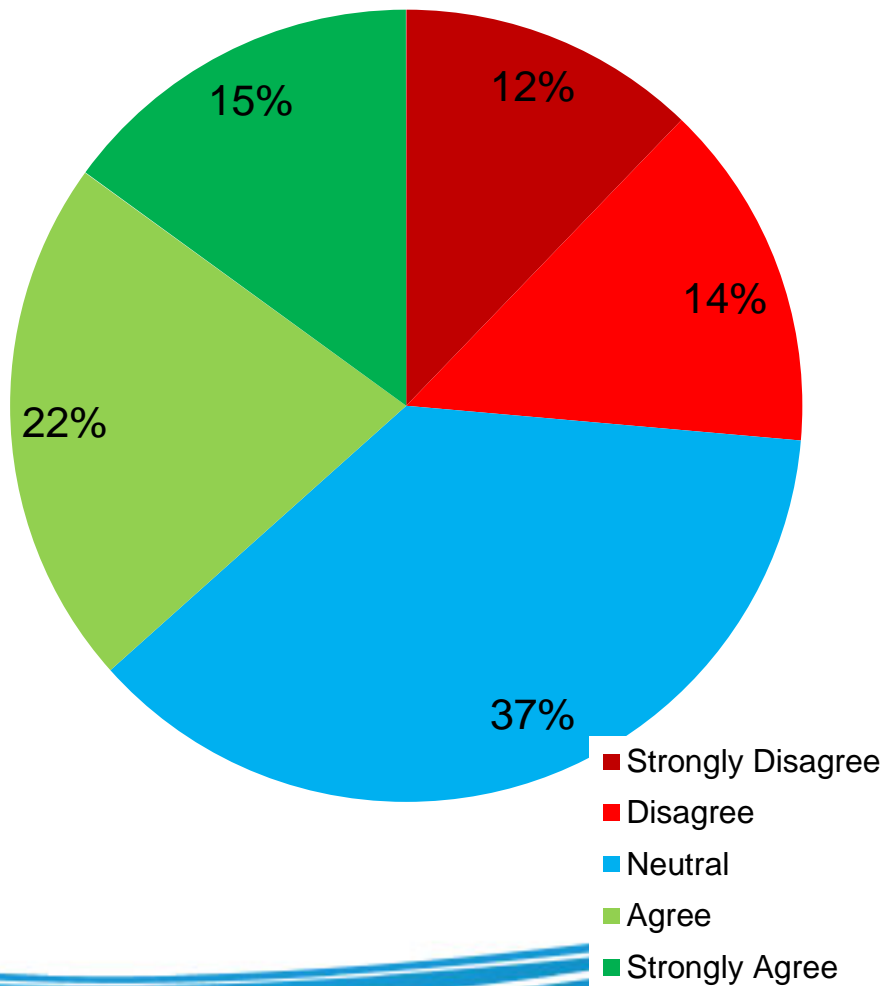


## Support Looser Restrictions on Hose-End Sprinklers

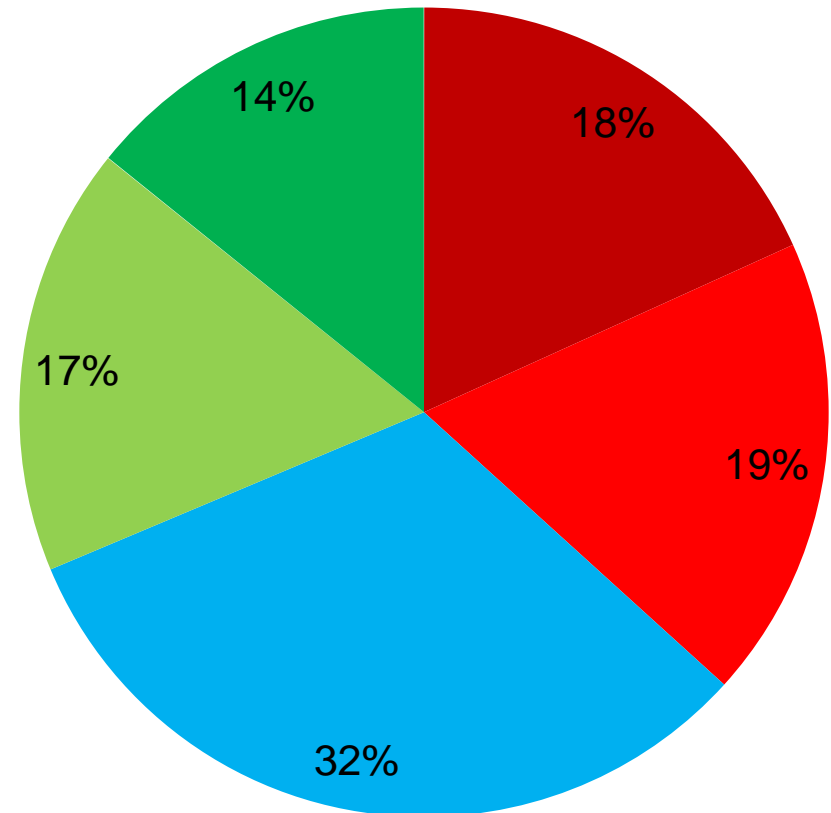




## Support Looser Restrictions on Patio Misters

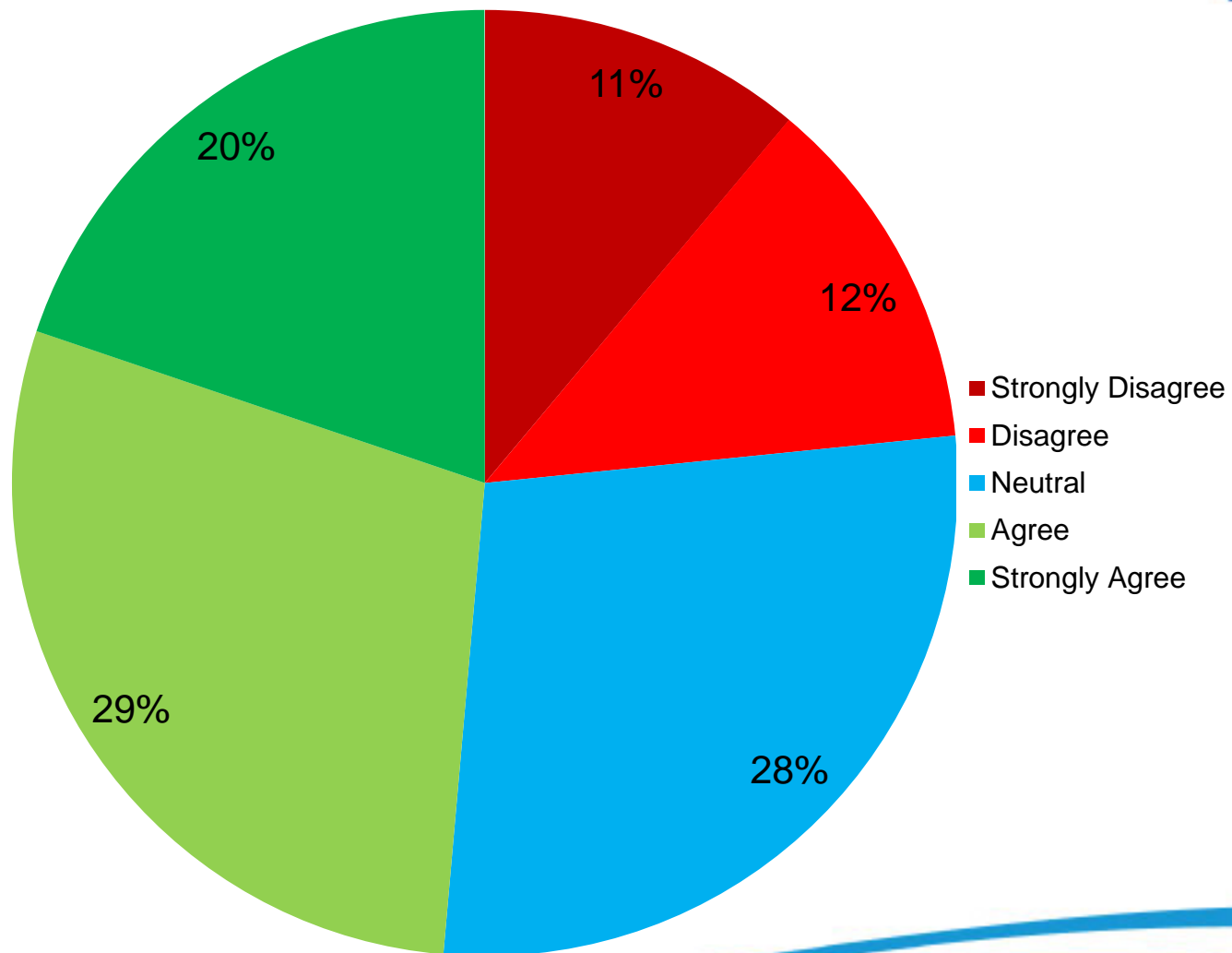


## Support Looser Restrictions on Ornamental Fountains



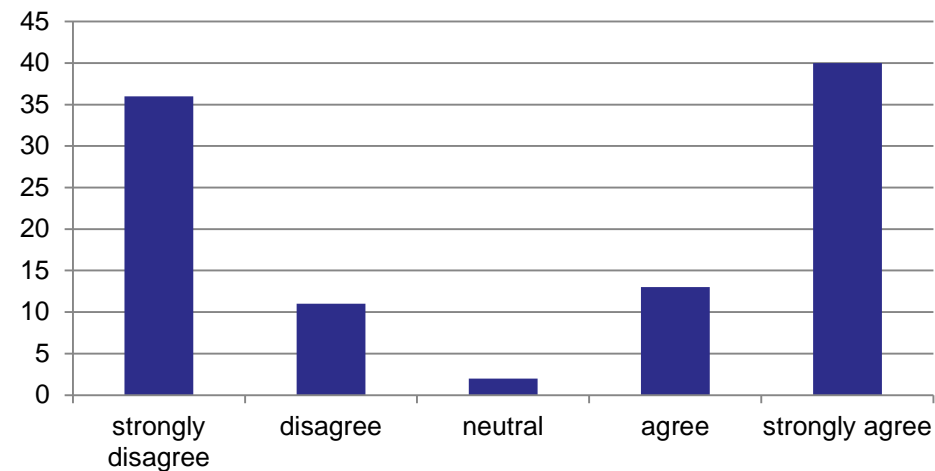
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

## Support Looser Restrictions on Pressure Washing

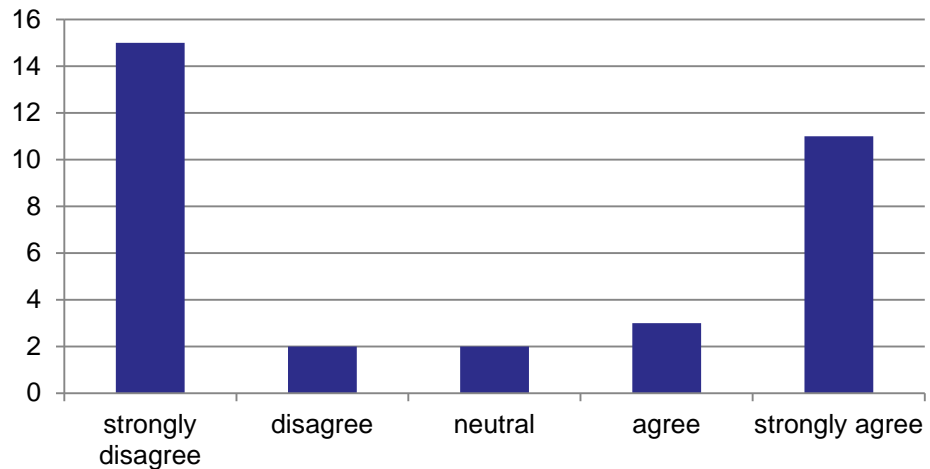


# I Support a Permanent Once-Per-Week Watering Schedule to Conserve the Region's Water Supply

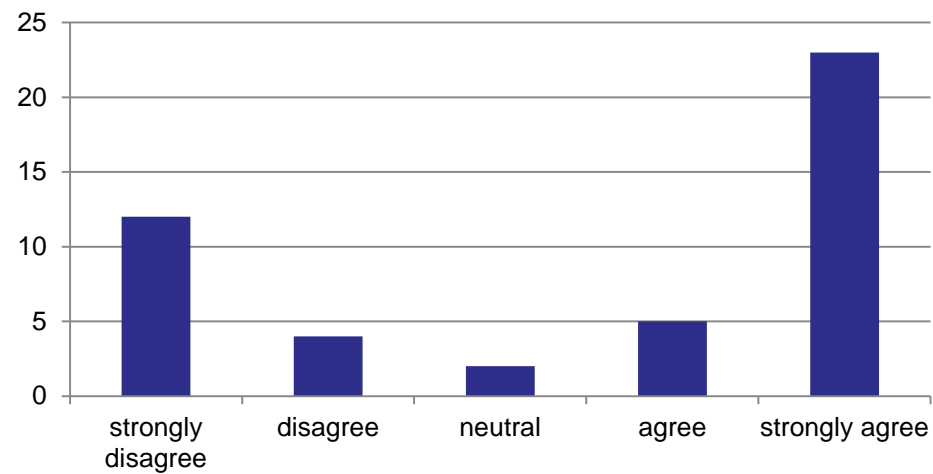
**District 1**



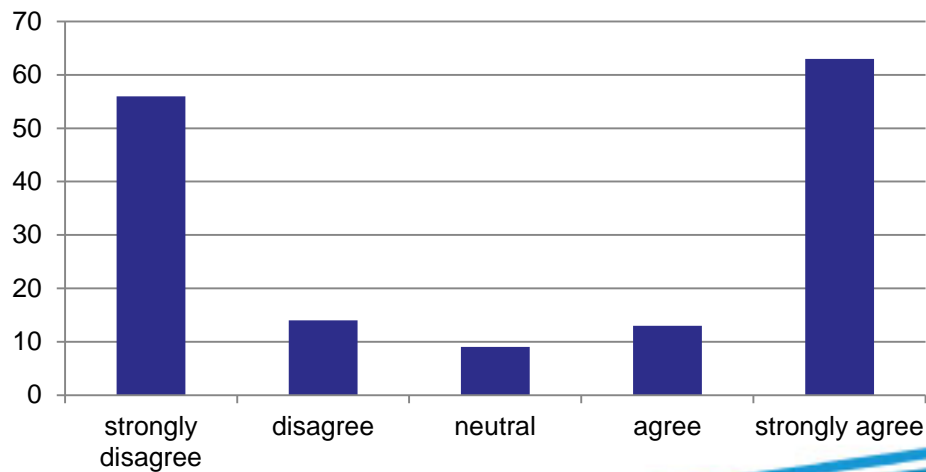
**District 2**



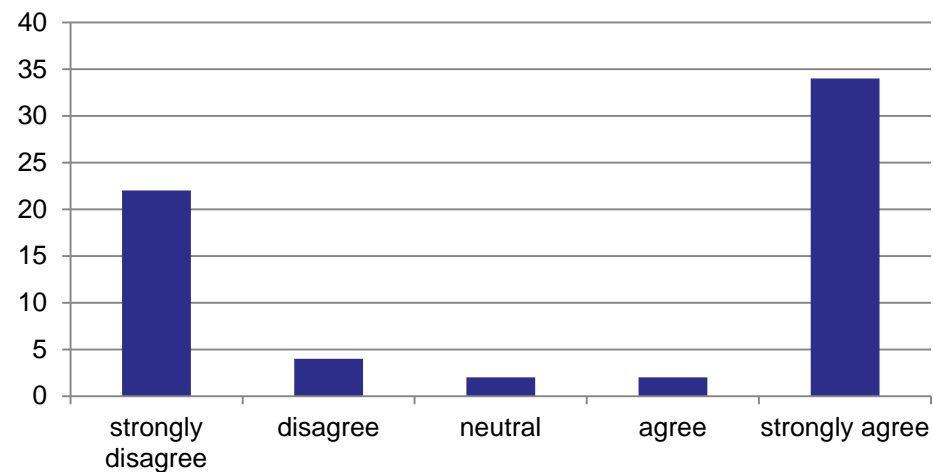
### District 3



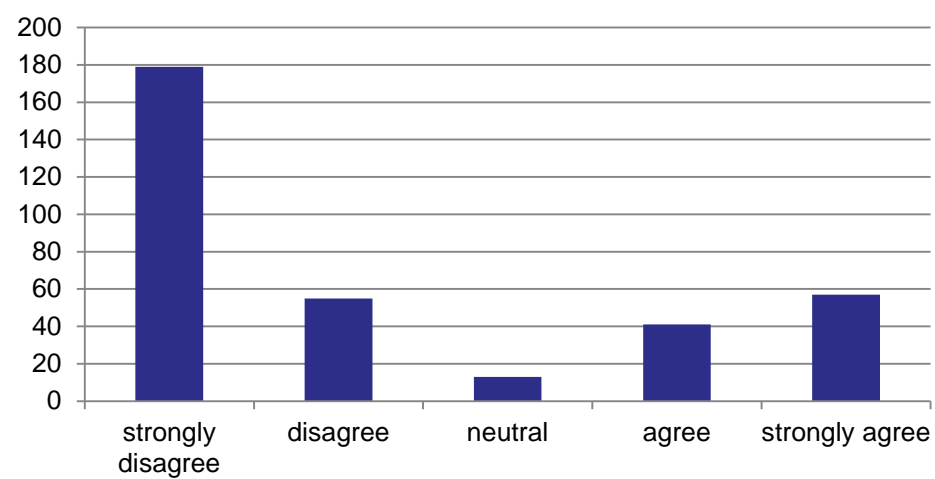
### District 5



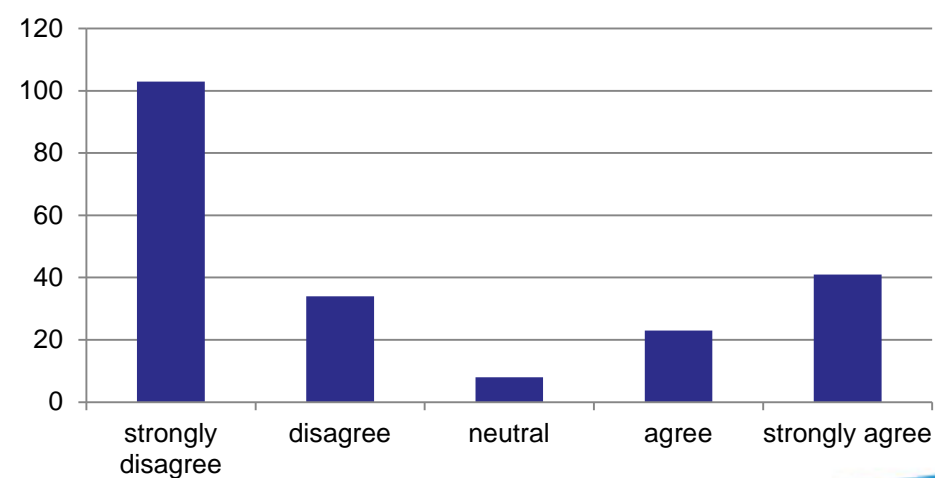
### District 4



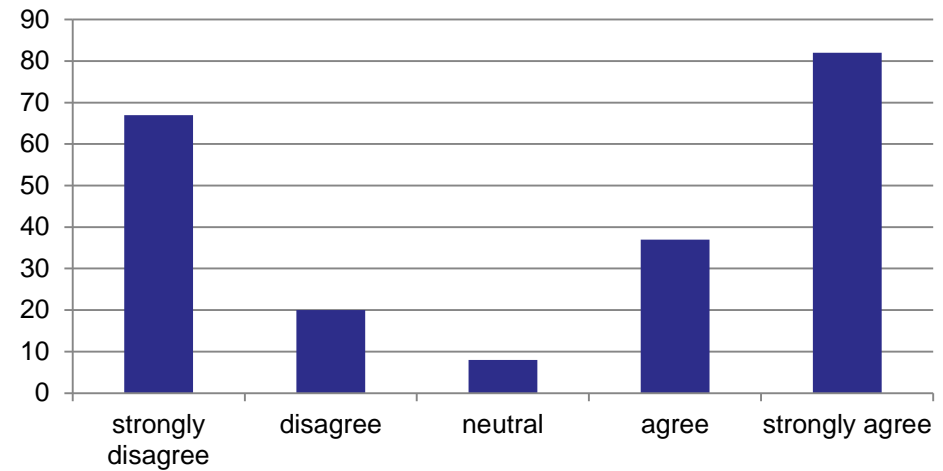
## District 6



## District 8

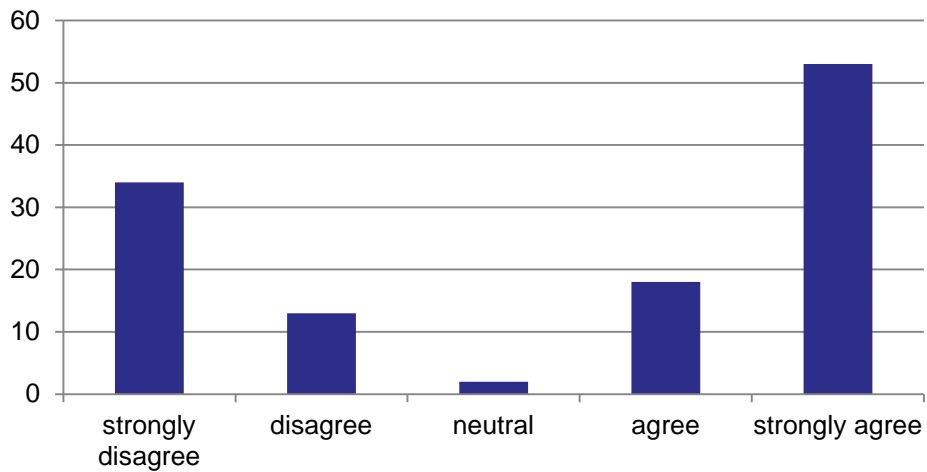


## District 7

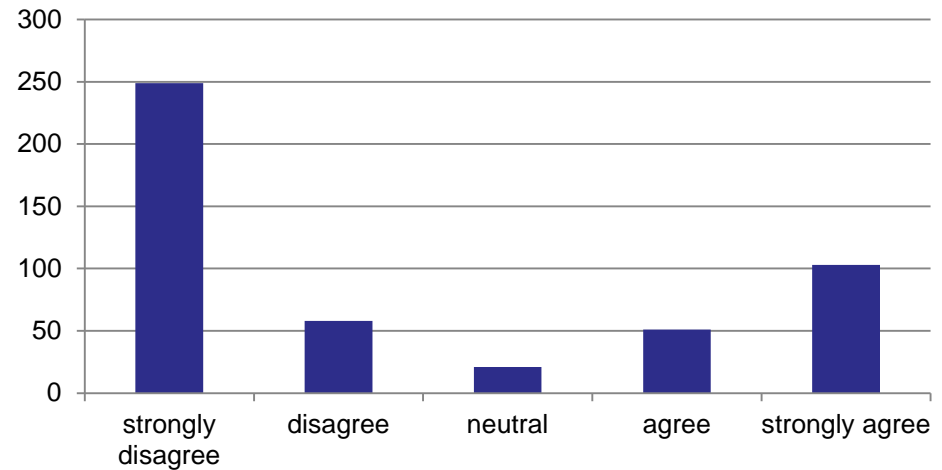




## District 9



## District 10



# Lifting Stage 2 Criteria

- Under the Water Management Code and Drought Contingency Plan, City Manager may consider lifting Stage 2 when:
  - the combined storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis reaches 1.1 million acre-feet; and
  - is expected to stay above 900,000 acre-feet for at least four months.
- City Manager may also base a determination to end regulations on other conditions and an assessment of all relevant circumstances which in the judgment of the City Manager merit such action.
- Allows the City Manager the discretion to consider any unforeseen, special or new circumstances and conditions as well as the flexibility to respond quickly during drought.