



## MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

**THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER:** James Clinch, P.E., MPA, City Manager

**FROM:** R. David Jackson, Assistant City Attorney, and Javier A. Vargas, Utilities Director

**DEPARTMENT:** Utilities Department

**DATE:** April 1, 2026

**MEETING DATE:** April 14, 2026

**SUBJECT / TOPIC:** Updating City's Schedule of Violations and Penalties Regarding Water Use Restrictions, Adopting Resolution No. 2026-09

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On March 24, 2026, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) declared a Modified Phase III "Extreme" Water Shortage due to ongoing drought conditions throughout the region. SWFWMD's declaration further set forth watering restrictions, effective April 3, 2026, that are applicable to all residents, including those on public water utilities, private wells, and surface water resources throughout the City of Venice.

In addition to these revised watering restrictions, SWFWMD has also given specific direction to local governments to enforce these restrictions, assessing penalties as required. The Utilities Department therefore requests approval to specifically add Section 74-48, Violation of water use restrictions, to the City's Schedule of Violations and Penalties as a Class I violation. No other changes to the Schedule of Violations and Penalties are proposed.

Accordingly, it is requested that City Council adopt Resolution No. 2026-09 Adopting a Revised Schedule of Violations and Penalties.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:** For Council Adoption by Motion

**SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN:** Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

ec: Kelly M. Fernandez, City Attorney  
Roger Omenhiser, Asst. City Manager  
Jim Davis, CRO, Supervisor