



## 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:** Southwest Florida Water Management District Phase III Watering Restrictions, Adopting Resolution No. 2026-08

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The City of Venice adopted Resolution No. 2007-21 on May 22, 2007, establishing revised irrigation hours for the use of water from public water utilities, private wells, and surface water sources.

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 private wells, throughout the City of Venice. These watering restrictions are also stricter than the watering restrictions currently in effect in the City of Venice. Watering is still restricted to one day per week; however, the window during which watering is permitted is more limited. Due to this recent declaration by SWFWMD, it is necessary to update the City's restrictions on irrigation to remain compliant with state law.

Resolution No. 2026-08 adds a provision to the language of the prior resolution to make any declaration or mandate from SWFWMD invoking stricter watering restrictions effective throughout the City for the time period specified by SWFWMD.

Accordingly, it is requested that City Council adopt Resolution No. 2026-08 Modifying Irrigation Watering Restrictions.

**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