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CITY OF CAPE TOWN

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MEDIA RELEASE

Water map savings milestone reached for February

The monthly update of the water map for February shows that 203 000 households have achieved dark green dots for their water saving efforts. These households are using 6 000 litres or less per month. The City of Cape Town challenges all households to aim for a dark green dot. Read more below:

This latest achievement by Team Cape Town shows that the number households who have now earned the coveted dark green water saving dot has increased by 32% or 49 000 households. This is a great way to celebrate World Water Day today.

The water map marks residential properties using less than 10 500 litres per month with green dots. The map shows that many households across Cape Town are working hard to save water to get us through the worst drought in recorded history.

'With the immediate threat of Day Zero having been averted for now, we still need to stretch our water resources to the maximum to make it through the winter, and through another potentially harsh summer. Our predicament is that we do not know what kind of rainfall to expect. All of us, therefore, need to stick to 50 litres per person per day – rain or shine, and with or without an immediate Day Zero looming. We are required by the National Department of Water and Sanitation to bring our consumption down to 450 million litres per day. We haven't quite reached this target yet but we know that Cape Town will again come together to do what needs to be done. Thank you Team Cape Town,' said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services; and Energy, Councillor Xanthea Limberg.

Visit www.capetown.gov.za/watermap to view the latest map.

Consumption is indicated on the map as follows:

- Dark green dot: household using less than 6 000 litres per month
- Grey dot with small dark green centre: estimated water meter reading of less than 6 000 litres per month
- Grey dot with small light green centre: estimated water meter reading of less than 10 500 litres per month
- Solid grey dot: excluded property (including: sectional title property or group housing / undeveloped property / water use is zero / no available information for the property / estimated water meter reading of more than 10 500 litres per month)

Note: the map simply indicates water consumption, not compliance with water restriction limits. Households with higher consumption may have many people living on the property, or may have an undetected water leak.

The map only shows consumption for free-standing houses, and not cluster housing, flats or other land uses. In addition, the map shows consumption information from meters read in February, and may include a portion of consumption from January depending on when your meter was read. This information is updated around the third week of the following month.

Households using more than 10 500 litres per month are not shown on the map. However, high consumers are often unaware of their consumption but are willing to change their behaviour once approached.

Remember that consumption higher than 10 500 litres per month (no green dot) does not necessarily indicate water abuse. There are many legitimate reasons for this:

- High number of occupants or guests in the house
- Water leaks that the occupants are unaware of (this happens frequently)
- The operation of a home business or B&B on the property
- Recently completed building work
- Consumption is not shown for group housing or properties with an estimated water reading of over 10 500 litres or where information is not available
- In rare cases, there may be an error in the consumption information, the property may have the incorrect tariff land-use code, or the consumption information could be spatially linked to the incorrect property on the map

Also note that consumption indicated on the map lags behind actual consumption, and the problem causing the high consumption may have already been addressed.

Are there errors in the consumption data?

The consumption information data is generally quite accurate. However, no billing system is 100% correct. The City will continue to do its best to investigate all complaints received regarding the accuracy of the map.

End

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