

# Emergency Water Regulations Level 2 Drought Alert

City of San Diego  
Public Briefing  
May 2009

# Prior Planning and Action

- City staff developed allocation methodology based on anticipated cut in supply of up to 20% from water wholesalers
- April 14, Metropolitan Water District Board adopted Level 2 of their water supply allocation plan which means a reduction to their member agencies including County Water Authority.
  - Not as severe as originally anticipated

# Prior Planning and Action

- CWA Board of Directors adopted the following at its April 23 meeting in response to MWD action:
  - Implement supply cutbacks to member agencies;
  - Declare a Level 2 “Drought Alert” condition, under CWA’s Drought Response Plan;
  - Use dry-year supplies (16,000 AF) to offset some of the water supply cutback from MWD.

# Prior Planning and Action

- Based upon CWA's action, anticipated cutback to the City is approximately 10%. Final numbers will be available from MWD and CWA within the next few weeks.
- Recommend implementation of Mandatory Water Use Restrictions in order to achieve the 10% target.

# Year-Round Water Waste Regulations

- Restaurants and other food establishments may serve and refill water only upon request.
- Optional laundering of towels and sheets must be offered in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments.
- Runoff due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks is prohibited.
- Water leaks must be repaired or stopped.
- Vehicle washing is permitted only in a commercial car wash or when using a hose with a positive shutoff nozzle or hand held container.

# Year-Round Water Waste Regulations

## Additional Prohibitions

- Single pass-through cooling systems for new water service connections.
- Using a hose to wash down paved areas (except to alleviate safety or sanitation hazards) unless connected to a water efficient device such as a commercial water broom.
- Overfilling swimming pools and spas and the use of non-recirculating decorative water fountains.

# Drought Response Level 1 (Voluntary)

These restrictions become mandatory at Level 2

- Irrigate only in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.
- Trees and shrubs not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system must be watered by a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, hand held container, or a garden hose sprinkler system on a timer.
- Irrigation of nursery and commercial growers' products is permitted in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m. or at any time when using a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, a hand-held container, or drip/micro-irrigation.

# Drought Response Level 1 (Voluntary)

- Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time.
- Vehicle washing is permitted only in the hours between 6 p.m. – 10 a.m with a hand-held container or a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses, or at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash. Vehicle washing required for public health and safety (e.g. garbage trucks) is exempt.
- Water use by commercial car washes which do not use partially recirculated water will be reduced in volume by an amount determined by the City Council.

# Drought Response Level 1 (Voluntary)

- Water leaks must be stopped or repaired within five (5) days upon discovery or of notification by the City of San Diego .
- Use of recycled or non-potable water is required for construction purposes when available.
- Water use from fire hydrants is limited to fire fighting, City meter installation as part of the Fire Hydrant Meter Program, and for public health and safety reasons.
- Construction operations will not use water obtained by a fire hydrant meter for uses other than normal construction activity.

At Level 2....

# Drought Response Level 2 (Mandatory)

At Level 2, all Level 1 requirements become mandatory, and the follow requirements also come into effect:

- Landscape irrigation is limited to no more than three (3) assigned days per week on a schedule established by the Public Utilities Director and subject to hardship variance process.
  - Odd number addresses: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday
  - Even number addresses: Saturday, Monday, Wednesday
- Lawn watering and landscape irrigation using sprinklers is limited to no more than ten (10) minutes maximum per watering station per assigned day.

# Drought Response Level 2 (Mandatory)

- Trees and shrubs not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system may be watered no more than three assigned days per week by using a hand-held container, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation (soaker hose).
- All leaks must be stopped or repaired upon discovery or within seventy-two (72) hours of notification by the City of San Diego.
- Ornamental fountains may be operated for maintenance purposes.

# Resources Allocated to Response Effort

- Public utility staff to be trained to observe and report water waste or violations of behavior modification requirements
- All City staff to be trained on modifications required at City facilities
- Door hangers and other materials to be developed for use by staff and public
- Tracking system to be implemented for complaints

# Water Waste Complaint Process

*The water waste complaint resolution process is consistent with the City's broader code enforcement efforts*

- 1) Progressive enforcement
- 2) At least one field contact before Notice of Violation
- 3) For continued water waste Administrative fines ranging from \$100 - \$1000

# Variance Request

- Variance Appeal may be filed (Fee \$25, \$50, \$100)
- Application submitted by customer
- Required Findings
  - No grant of special privilege
  - Strict application of Regulations would have a disproportionate impact on the property
  - Variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent properties, or the public interest
  - Conditions or situation for which the variance is sought is not common, recurrent or general in nature

# Variance Request

- Forms available on-line:

[www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water)



The City of San Diego

## LEVEL 2: Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

*Wasting water has always been bad behavior. As of June 2009, it's against the law. That's because San Diego is in a water emergency. We import 90 percent of our water, and our supplies are being cut back. With less water to go around, the City Council has enacted mandatory water use restrictions to ensure the water we get is used wisely. Know the rules. Follow the law. Waste no water.*

### OUTDOORS

- Water lawns and landscape only between 6 p.m. & 10 a.m.
- Water only three times a week from June through October.
  - Homes with odd-numbered address: Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday
  - Homes with even-numbered addresses: Saturday, Monday & Wednesday
  - Apartments, Condos and Businesses: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
  - Standard lawn sprinklers can water: Only 10 minutes.
- Know your watering days!

### YOUR CAR

- When you take your car to a car wash, use one that recycles its water.
- When you wash your car, do it between 6 p.m. & 10 a.m., use a bucket and a hose with a shut-off nozzle.

### EVERYWHERE

- Repair water leaks within 72 hours.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information and a complete list of water restrictions and conditions, go to the City Water Department website at:

[www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water) or call (619) 515-3500.

NO TIME TO WASTE  
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**IT'S CLEAR. IT'S TIME TO CHANGE.**

**MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS START **JUNE 1, 2009****