

"Placerville, a Unique Historical Past Forging into a Golden Future"



City Manager's Report
May 26, 2015, City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Cleve Morris, City Manager
Item #: 12.3

Subject: Adopt a resolution:

1. Continuing a drought state of emergency;
2. Adopting regulations in accordance with Governor Brown's Executive Order restricting outdoor watering to two days per week; and
3. Directing City staff to seek state and federal relief whenever possible.

Background: On February 11, 2014, the City Council declared a Stage 2 Drought Alert in accordance with an Alert issued by El Dorado Irrigation District. As part of the Alert, the City adopted a resolution stating that the City does as follows:

1. Declares a drought state of emergency;
2. Urges Placerville ratepayers to begin reducing their baseline water consumption by 30% as prescribed by EID's Stage 2 Drought Alert; and
3. Directs City staff to seek state and federal relief whenever possible.

The Stage 2 Drought Alert implemented the following outdoor water restrictions:

- April 15 – June 15: 2 days per week
- June 16 – September 15: 3 days per week
- September 16 – November 15: 2 days per week
- November 16 – April 15: 1 day per week

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order requiring an immediate reduction in overall potable urban water use of 25%. On May 5, 2015, the State Water Board adopted Mandatory Water Conservation Regulations to implement the Governor's Executive Order.

Discussion: The State Water Board Regulations define the City as a non-urban water supplier due to the number of customers the City provides water for. As such, the regulations are different for Placerville than they are for El Dorado Irrigation District. The regulations state:

“(f)(1) To prevent waste and unreasonable use of water and to promote water conservation, each distributor of a public water supply that is not an urban water supplier shall take one or more of the following actions:

(A) Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week; or

(B) Reduce by 25 percent reduction its total potable water production relative to the amount produced in 2013.

(2) Each distributor of a public water supply that is not an urban water supplier shall submit a report by December 15, 2015, on a form provided by the Board, that either confirms compliance with Subdivision (f)(1)(A) or identifies total potable water production, by month, from June through November 2015, and total potable water production, by month, for June through November 2013.”

At the City Council meeting on May 12, 2015, the Council was updated on this item; however, as it was not agendaized, no action was taken. The Council did ask that it be placed on the agenda for this meeting. At that meeting it was noted that EID is under a different requirement that mandates potable water conservation of 27%. EID representatives noted that their Board took action to allow watering of every other day from June 1 through September 30. They also stated that this will likely be reconsidered at an upcoming meeting. Although this is in conflict with the City’s two-day per week requirement, staff still feels we should continue with two days per week in order to meet the State regulation.

As noted above, the City has two options in meeting the State regulation, either to reduce potable water use by 25%, or restrict outdoor watering to two days per week. The requirement to reduce potable water use by 25% also has fairly significant reporting requirements that would require additional staff time. Based on this review, it is staff’s recommendation that we adopt the two-day per week outdoor water restriction.

There are additional restrictions adopted by the State Water Board prohibit the following:

- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways;
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water;
- Using hoses with no automatic shutoff nozzles to wash cars;
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water;
- Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall; and
- Restaurants serving water to their customers unless the customer requests it.

Additionally, hotels and motels must offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily, and prominently display this option in each guest room.

The attached media release from the State Water Board outlines the regulations. It should be noted that in order to meet the guidelines outlined by the State, staff has already taken action to implement the two days per week watering schedule. If the Council was to adopt a different option, staff will implement that option.

Options:

1. Adopt the attached resolution as presented, restricting outdoor watering to two days per week.

2. Adopt a resolution requiring a 25% reduction in potable water use as required by the Governor's Executive Order and direct staff to adopt the same watering restrictions as adopted by EID.

3. Take no action and direct staff to bring back additional information.

Cost: The recommended conservation measures could have a negative impact on the City's water and sewer rate revenues for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014/2015 and through Fiscal Year 2015/2016. Staff has reviewed the impact of the drought regulations from last year and adjusted water and sewer revenues accordingly. However, these are only estimates and the actual affect could be different.

Budget Impact: Staff has made budget adjustments for the current year's budget and will recommend adjustments to the Council in the budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution:

1. Continuing a drought state of emergency;
2. Adopting regulations in accordance with Governor Brown's Executive Order restricting outdoor watering to two days per week; and
3. Directing City staff to seek state and federal relief whenever possible.


M. Cleve Morris, City Manager


Dave Warren, Director of Finance

Attachments:

- Media Release
- Resolution
- Public Notice



Media Release

State Water Board Adopts 25 Percent Mandatory Water Conservation Regulation

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2015

Contact: George Kostyrko
gkostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – With emergency drought conditions persisting throughout California, the State Water Resources Control Board Tuesday adopted an emergency regulation requiring an immediate 25 percent reduction in overall potable urban water use statewide in accordance with Gov. Jerry Brown’s April 1 Executive Order.

The Governor’s Executive Order required, for the first time in the state’s history, mandatory conservation for all residents and directed several state agencies, including the State Water Board, to take immediate action to safeguard the state’s remaining potable urban water supplies in preparation for a possible fifth year of drought.

A 25 percent savings in potable urban water use amounts to more than 1.2 million acre-feet of water over the next nine months, or nearly as much water as is currently in Lake Oroville.

Tuesday’s action follows the release of water production figures for the month of March which registered only a slight increase from the amount of water saved in the prior month. The amount of water conserved in March 2015, as compared to March 2013 was 3.6 percent, up less than one percent from February’s results.

Since the State Water Board adopted its initial emergency urban conservation regulation in July 2014, voluntary statewide conservation efforts have reached 9 percent overall – far short of the 20 percent Governor Brown called for in 2014. To see how various regions and communities have done conserving water, please visit this link here.

“This is the drought of the century, with greater impact than anything our parents and grandparents experienced, and we have to act accordingly,” said Felicia Marcus, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board.

“Today we set a high but achievable bar, with the goal of stretching urban California’s water supply. We have to face the reality that this drought may continue and prepare as if that’s the case. If it rains and snows next winter, we celebrate. If the drought continues, we’ll be glad we took difficult but prudent action today. It’s the responsible thing to do.”





Conservation Standard

The emergency regulation identifies how much water communities must conserve based on their average residential water use, per person per day, last summer. Every person should be able keep indoor water use to no more than 55 gallons per day. For the most part, the amount of water that each person uses in excess of this amount is water that is applied to lawns and other ornamental landscapes.

On average, 50 percent of total residential use is outdoors, in some cases up to 80 percent. To save water now, during this drought emergency, the regulation targets these outdoor uses. Communities that are approaching, at or below the indoor target, are assigned a modest conservation standard while communities that use water well above the indoor target will be asked to do much more.

To reduce water use by 25 percent statewide, the regulation adopted by the Board this week places each urban water supplier into one of eight tiers which are assigned a conservation standard, ranging between four percent and 36 percent. Each month, the State Water Board will compare every urban water suppliers' water use with their use for the same month in 2013 to determine if they are on track for meeting their conservation standard. Local water agencies will determine the most cost effective and locally appropriate way to achieve their standard. The State Water Board will be working closely with water suppliers to implement the regulations and improve local efforts that are falling short.

"This likely will result in all communities significantly cutting back on outdoor watering, particularly ornamental landscapes surrounding homes, institutions, and businesses, resulting in many golden landscapes statewide," said Marcus. "This will be a heavy lift for some, but we believe that the regulatory strategy adopted today is doable – in fact, many communities that have focused on conserving water have already achieved significant conservation without losing their landscapes."

Residential customers of water suppliers with a conservation standard of 36 percent currently use between 216 and 614 gallons of water per person per day during the months of July, August, and September. Reducing their water use by 36 percent will still leave these residents with a minimum of 137 and up to 393 gallons of water per person per day; far more than the accepted standard of 55 gallons per person per day for indoor use. The difference between 55 gallons per person per day and 137 – 393 gallons per person per day means that these residents will still have water available for outdoor irrigation. Communities using less than 65 gallons per person per day will be required to reduce their overall water use by 8 percent.

"Over the longer term, we have many ways to extend our precious water resources, particularly in urban areas — conservation, recycling, stormwater capture, and desalination in appropriate cases have great promise. Many communities have done a lot already, or have ambitious goals that we hope to help them achieve. In the short run however, conservation is the cheapest, fastest and smartest way to become more resilient in the face of drought today and climate change in the future," said Marcus.

Summary of New Requirements

- The conservation savings for all urban water suppliers (serving more than 3,000 connections) are allocated across nine tiers of increasing levels of residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) water use to reduce water use by 25 percent statewide and will take effect June 1st. For specific information on the tiers and the suppliers in each tier, please visit [here](#).
- Smaller water suppliers (serving fewer than 3,000 connections) must either reduce water use by 25 percent, or restrict outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week. These smaller urban suppliers, that collectively serve less than 10 percent of Californians, must submit a report on December 15, 2015 to demonstrate compliance.
- Commercial, Industrial and Institutional properties that are not served by a water supplier (or are self-supplied, such as by a groundwater well) also must either reduce water use by 25 percent or restrict outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week. No reporting is required but these properties must maintain documentation of their water use and practices.
- The new prohibitions in the Executive Order apply to all Californians and will take effect immediately upon approval of the regulation by the Office of Administrative Law. These include:
 - Irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians; and
 - Irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings not in accordance with emergency regulations or other requirements established by the Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.
- These are in addition to the existing restrictions that prohibit:
 - Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways;
 - Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water;
 - Using hoses with no automatic shutoff nozzles to wash cars;
 - Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water;
 - Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall; and
 - Restaurants serving water to their customers unless the customer requests it.
- Additionally, hotels and motels must offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily and prominently display this option in each guest room.



Enforcement

In addition to other powers, local agencies can fine property owners up to \$500 a day for failure to implement the water use prohibitions and restrictions. The State Water Board can issue informational orders, conservation orders or cease and desist orders to water suppliers for failure to meet their conservation standard. Water agencies that violate cease and desist orders are subject to a civil liability of up to \$10,000 a day.

Next Steps

Following Board adoption, the regulation will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law, which has 10 days to approve or deny the regulation. If approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the regulation will take effect immediately and remain in effect for 270 days from that date.

For more information, please visit the [Emergency Water Conservation](#) website.

To learn more about the state's drought response, visit [Drought.CA.Gov](#).

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](#).

RESOLUTION NO. 8169

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLACERVILLE
CONTINUING THE DECLARATION OF A DROUGHT STATE OF EMERGENCY,
AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER AND THE WATER BOARD'S MANDATORY
WATER CONSERVATOIN REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2015 Governor Jerry Brown issued an Executive Order requiring an immediate 25 percent reduction in overall potable urban water use statewide; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2015 the State Water Board issued Mandatory Water Conservation Regulations in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, the Water Board Regulations define the City as a non-urban water supplier; and

WHEREAS, the City has two options in meeting the Water Board Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Placerville:

1. Continues a declaration of a drought state of emergency; and
2. Adopts regulations in accordance with the State Water Board Mandatory Water Conservation Regulations restricting outdoor watering to two days per week from April 16, 2015 through November 15, 2015, and all other regulations outlined in said Regulations; and
3. Directs staff to enforce the newly adopted regulations.

The foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Placerville held on May 26, 2015, by Councilmember _____ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember _____. The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor, Patricia Borelli

ATTEST:

Susan Zito, MMC, City Clerk



City of Placerville PUBLIC NOTICE

Updated Mandatory Watering Restrictions

On April 1st, Governor Brown issued an executive order **mandating** a statewide 25% reduction in water usage as compared to the amount used in 2013. The State may mandate additional changes. Please keep this updated year-long schedule for future reference as the seasonal watering schedules change. Thank you for your continued conservation efforts!

- 1. Outdoor irrigation is limited to before 10:00 am and after 7:00 pm.**
- 2. Irrigation systems must be turned off during and 48 hours after measureable rainfall.**
- 3. Watering days are based on street address ending number (see below).**

<p>11/16 to 4/15 Odd: Saturdays Even: Sundays Water Once-A-Week</p>	<p>4/16 to 11/15 Odd: Tuesdays & Saturdays Even: Wednesdays & Sundays Water Twice-A-Week</p>
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UPDATED

Effective April 16, 2015, outdoor watering will be restricted to twice a week for customers who purchase water from the City of Placerville.

The watering restrictions are as follows:

- Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 am.
- Watering days are based on street addresses.
- Effective April 16, 2015 twice-a-week watering is allowed until November 15, 2015.

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- For customers with addresses ending in even numbers, watering is allowed on Wednesdays and Sundays only.
- For customers with addresses ending in odd numbers, watering is allowed Tuesdays and Saturdays only.

For example, if your watering days are Wednesdays and Sundays (even number address), your watering hours would be as follows:

- Wednesdays beginning midnight until 10:00 am and then again from 7:00 pm until 11:59 pm.
- Sundays beginning midnight until 10:00 am and then again from 7:00 pm until 11:59 pm.

If your watering days are Tuesdays and Saturdays (odd number address), your watering hours would be as follows:

- Tuesdays beginning midnight until 10:00 am and then again from 7:00 pm until 11:59 pm.
- Saturdays beginning midnight until 10:00 am and then again from 7:00 pm until 11:59 pm.

Irrigation systems must be turned off during and 48 hours after measurable rainfall. Do not use potable water to hose off pavement, sidewalks, or driveways. A partial list of updated watering restrictions can be viewed at www.eid.org/drought.

For more drought information and tips on water conservation, please visit www.eid.org/drought and www.saveourh2o.org and share these resources with friends, family, and neighbors. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

If you have any questions about the watering restrictions and/or your utility bill, please call the City's Finance Department at 530.642.5225 or visit us at City Hall, 3101 Center Street. City office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and Fridays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.