



ADOPTION OF THE 2025 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

Water Resources

Board of Public Utilities

June 8, 2026

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. Urban Water Management Plan required every five years, including a **Water Shortage Contingency Plan** (WSCP)
2. WSCP must be adopted as a stand-alone document
3. WSCP must address water shortages from 0% to >50% with defined response actions
4. Ordinance 7556 established the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan framework in alignment with State requirements
5. May 11, 2021: Ordinance 7556 adopted to align with California Water Code § 10632
6. AWSDA (prepared annually) can trigger WSCP shortage response actions



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WATER SHORTAGE LEVELS

Described in City's Water Conservation Ordinance (Ch. 14.22 Riverside Muni Code)

Riverside's Shortage Levels	Supply Condition	Supply Reduction	State's Standard Level	Shortage Level
1	Normal Water Supply	0%	1	≤10%
2	Minimum Water Shortage	<15%	2	10-20%
3	Moderate Water Shortage	15-20%		
4	Severe Water Shortage	20-50%	3	20-30%
			4	30-40%
			5	40-50%
5	Emergency Water Shortage	>50%	6	>50%



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WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN LEVELS

RPU Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Water Shortage Condition
1	0%	Stage One (Normal Water Supply) applies when the City can meet all of its water demands, but declares, by resolution, that it has determined that certain conservation methods are warranted to preserve existing water supplies in the event the City will be unable to meet future water demands with its local water supplies. Any other normal water efficiency programs and water conservation regulations remain in force during Stage One.
2	<15%	Stage Two (Minimum Water Shortage) applies when the City Council declares, by resolution, a reasonable probability exists that the City will not be able to meet all of its water demands with its local water supplies, other regional or statewide conditions warrant implementation; or RPU faces an actual supply shortage of up to 15%, corresponding to CA Water Code section 10632 shortage levels 1 and 2.



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WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN LEVELS CONT.

RPU Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Water Shortage Condition
3	15-20%	Stage Three (Moderate Water Shortage) applies when the City Council declares, by resolution, a reasonable probability exists that the City will not be able to meet all of its water demands with its local water supplies, other regional or statewide conditions warrant implementation; or RPU faces an actual supply shortage of 15-20%, corresponding to CA Water Code section 10632 shortage levels 2 and 3.
4	20-50%	Stage Four (Severe Water Shortage) applies when the City Council declares, by resolution, that the City's ability to meet its water demands with its local water supplies is seriously impaired; or RPU faces an actual supply shortage of 20-50%, corresponding to CA Water Code section 10632 shortage levels 3, 4, and 5.
5	>50%	Stage Five Water Shortage Emergency applies when the City Council declares, by resolution, that the City's ability to meet its water demands with its local water supplies is so seriously impaired that RPU faces an actual supply shortage of over 50%, corresponding to CA Water Code section 10632 shortage level 6.



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DISCUSSION

1. No substantive changes to the WSCP
2. Minor formatting updates
3. Two items in the Demand Reduction Actions table (marked with asterisk) are included for informational purposes only



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DISCUSSION CONT.

Demand Reduction Actions:

1. Applies to irrigation of nonfunctional turf on applicable properties

The use of potable water to irrigate non-functional turf on applicable properties is prohibited.*

*Indicates provisions associated with a forthcoming ordinance update not adopted as part of this action.

2. Remove word "minimal"

Non-agricultural irrigation shall be limited to supporting minimal** survival of trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs may be irrigated, only during the following designated hours and days:

- Properties with odd number street addresses, parks, and public rights-of-way may irrigate only on Saturdays between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- Properties with even number street addresses may irrigate only on Sundays between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- Irrigation is prohibited on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and on any day of the week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Use of graywater, as that term is defined in the California Health and Safety Code, or recycled water for irrigation is permitted on any day and at any time, subject only to any permits issued by the City.

**RMC section 14.22.060 – Stage Four – Severe water shortage currently provides that “Non-agricultural irrigation shall be limited to supporting minimal survival of trees and shrubs. The City’s Board of Public Utilities has requested that the City remove the word “minimal” when the ordinance is updated. It will be included in the forthcoming ordinance.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities:

- Conduct a public hearing to review the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and
- Recommend that City Council adopt a resolution to adopt the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan prepared by the City of Riverside’s Public Utilities Department.



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