

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S EMERGENCY DROUGHT REGULATIONS

Riverside Public Utilities

Board of Public Utilities

June 13, 2022

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BACKGROUND

1. California is in a severe drought.
 - a. Driest three years on record

Governor's Executive Order issued **March 2022** requesting the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulations requiring:

- Water providers to implement response action: of **10-20%** shortage level
- Prohibition of the use of **potable** water to **irrigate non-functional turf** in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors



EMERGENCY REGULATION REQUIREMENTS

Implementation of Level 2 shortage response actions for a shortage level of 10-20%.

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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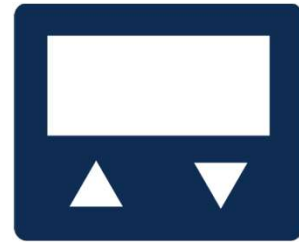
DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIONS



Water between 6PM – 10AM



3x/week



Adjust timers to changing weather patterns



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EMERGENCY REGULATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Prohibition of the use of **potable** water to **irrigate non-functional** turf in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors
 - a. Non-functional turf = solely ornamental in purpose
 - b. Trees and perennial non-turf plantings can still be watered
 - c. Exemption for low water use grass



Non-functional grass around a concrete planter (photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)



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CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION



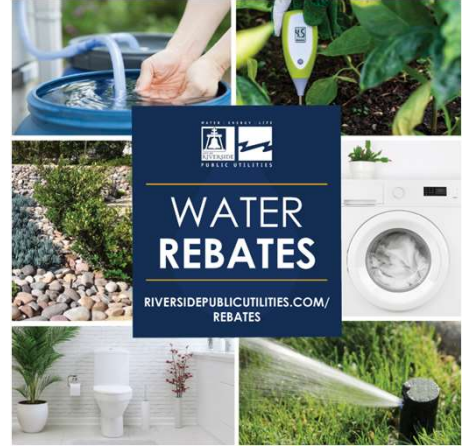
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CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION

Increased incentives for water rebates

Device	Rebate Total	Metropolitan Contribution	RPU Contribution
Weather-Based Irrigation Controller	\$200	\$80	\$120
Turf Replacement	\$3/sq ft	\$2/sq ft	\$1/sq ft
High-Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzles	\$5/nozzle	\$2/nozzle	\$3/nozzle



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JOINT MESSAGING

Regional Collaboration Efforts



-  Fix all **leaks and broken sprinklers**.
-  Water landscaping only between the hours of **6 p.m. and 10 a.m.** to reduce evaporation.
-  Reduce irrigation days to **three days a week**.
-  Replace your turf with **water-wise plants**.
-  Wash **full loads of laundry and dishes**.
-  Take shorter showers and use a low-flow showerhead.
-  Wash your car at a **carwash that recycles water**, instead of at home.
-  Clean driveways and walkways with a **broom instead of a hose**.
-  **We need trees** and trees need water. **Mulching and low flow** watering keep trees thriving.

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ENFORCEMENT

1. Educational materials
2. Notices
3. Appropriate amount of time to make necessary adjustments



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Priority #4 - Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.2 - Sustainably manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable water to our community.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding implementation of actions to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board's emergency drought regulations.

