



## UPDATE ON THE STATE DROUGHT AND EMERGENCY DROUGHT REGULATIONS

### Riverside Public Utilities

#### Board of Public Utilities

May 8, 2023

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## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. 2019 – Drought conditions return and are further exacerbated in 2021.
2. July 2021 – Governor Newsom declared a drought emergency urging residents to voluntarily reduce water usage by 15%.
3. January 2022 - The SWRCB adopted an emergency regulation prohibiting wasteful water use practices.
4. May 2022 – The SWRCB adopted new emergency drought regulations requiring the implementation of demand reduction actions and prohibiting the use of potable water to irrigate non-functional turf.
5. December 2022 – The SWRCB readopted emergency regulation prohibiting wasteful water use practices.
6. March 2023 – Governor Newsom rescinded the emergency drought regulation requiring the implementation of demand reduction actions.

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## BACKGROUND

1. Recent rain and snow have exceeded state's historical peaks but will not make up for the last three years of drought – the driest ever recorded in state history.
  
2. Some emergency drought regulations remain in place.
  - a. Prohibitions on wasteful water practices
  - b. Irrigating non-functional turf in HOAs and commercial sectors



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## PROHIBITIONS ON WASTEFUL WATER PRACTICES

1. Already permanently prohibited by Riverside's Municipal Code
2. Examples:
  - a. Irrigation run-off
  - b. Watering during rain
  - c. Washing hard surfaces with potable water



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## LEVEL 2 SHORTAGE AND NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

1. Implementation of demand reduction actions for a Level 2 (10-20%) shortage - Rescinded March 24, 2023
  - a. Watering between 6pm-10am
  - b. Limit irrigation to 3x/week
  - c. Adjust timers to changing weather patterns
    1. In March 2023, RPU customers reduced their consumption by 31% compared to the same month in 2021 mainly due to wet 2023 month, but the reduction averaged about 10% since June 2022.
2. Prohibition on the use of potable water to irrigate non-functional turf in HOAs and CII
  - a. In effect until June 2023



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## MOVING FORWARD

1. 2018 Framework Legislation "Making Conservation a California Way of Life"
  - a. Permanent water efficiency targets for suppliers
  - b. Requirements to assist customers become more efficient water users through efficiency programs, rebates, and best management practices



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# STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



## Strategic 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



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# RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Public Utilities receive an update on the state drought and emergency drought regulations.



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