



AMENDMENT RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 14.22.020-14.22.080 TO UPDATE WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Riverside Public Utilities – Water Resources

Board of Public Utilities
April 26, 2021

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. Water Conservation Ordinance first adopted in July 2011 in response to statewide drought emergency
2. New legislation has led to multiple updates to the Ordinance since adoption
3. Last update was in 2015 in response to most recent statewide drought emergency

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BACKGROUND

1. Water Conservation Ordinance describes:
 - a) Unreasonable uses of water
 - b) Establishes four water shortage levels and corresponding demand reduction actions
2. Changes in State water management planning law
 - a) Six standard water shortage levels

2020 WSCP Level	Shortage Level
1	≤ 10%
2	10 - 20%
3	20 - 30%
4	30 - 40%
5	40 - 50%
6	>50%

DISCUSSION

1. Proposed amendments to Water Conservation Ordinance
 - a) Clarify supply reduction percentages that characterize each Water Conservation Stage and include correlation to State's standard shortage level
 - b) Add a fifth Water Conservation Stage
 - c) Modify irrigation best practices and promote water use efficiency by RPU customers

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. Add supply reduction percentage to each stage and correlation to State's standard shortage level

For example:

- Stage Two applies when the City Council declares, by resolution, a reasonable probability exists that the City will not be able to meet all water demands **(with its local water supplies)**, other regional or statewide conditions warrant implementation, or the State of California orders 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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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

2. Add a fifth stage corresponding to an Emergency Water Shortage

Existing stages	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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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Section 14.22.030(B.1) of Riverside Municipal Code reads:

1. Non-agricultural irrigation should be done from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. **Pop-up spray type sprinklers are limited to 15 minutes total runtime. Impact rotor sprinklers are limited to 30 minutes total runtime.** Irrigation water cannot leave the landscaped area. **Landscaped areas of properties that are irrigated by drip irrigation or microspray irrigation shall be exempt from these irrigation restrictions.**

Proposed amendment – Remove **Bold** text limiting irrigation run-times

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Section 14.22.040(B.3.c) of Riverside Municipal Code reads:

B. Upon declaration of Stage Two by the City Council, the following measures shall apply:

3. Non-agricultural irrigation is limited as follows:

c. Properties may not be irrigated more than **four** times per week.

Proposed amendment – Decrease **four** to three times per week

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Section 14.22.060(B.8) of the Riverside Municipal Code reads:

B. Upon declaration of Stage Four by the City Council, the following water conservation measures shall apply:

8. Use of water for cooling mists is prohibited.

Proposed amendment – **Remove this restriction**

IMPACTS TO CUSTOMERS

1. Remove irrigation run-time restrictions: Increased flexibility in keeping landscapes alive during water shortages
2. Remove restrictions on use of cooling misters: Ability to use less resource-intensive cooling strategies
3. Reducing watering days from 4 to 3 during Stage 2 Shortage: Demand reduction to potentially avoid further escalation in water shortage and need for purchase imported water to augment supplies

RECOMMENDATION

That the Riverside Board of Public Utilities recommend the City Council adopt an ordinance amending Sections 14.22.020-14.22.080 of the Riverside Municipal Code to update the Water Conservation Ordinance.