

CITY OF RIVERSIDE'S WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Riverside Public Utilities – Water Resources

Water Committee

July 14, 2021

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. Riverside Municipal Code – Ch. 14.22 Water Conservation Ordinance first adopted in July 26, 2011
2. Periodically updated as legislation has required
3. Staff presented the Board with new amendments that would better align the Ordinance with new regulations on April 26, 2021

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DISCUSSION

1. Water conservation ordinances are used by water providers in meeting water use reduction requirements mandated by legislation.
2. Riverside's Water Conservation Ordinance is typical of others enacted by municipalities across state.
3. Comprised of three sections:
 1. Unreasonable uses of water
 2. Water Conservation Program
 3. Enforcement and Severability

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UNREASONABLE USES OF WATER

1. Riverside's existing prohibitions on water waste match what was mandated by the State in 2014 and 2015
 - a. Focus on outdoor landscape irrigation, as do other municipalities and water providers
 - b. For example: no irrigation runoff, no watering during and within 48 hours of measurable rainfall, must use shut-off nozzle on hose when washing vehicle



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UNREASONABLE USES OF WATER (CONT.)

Indoor Water Use Prohibition Examples

Beverly Hills	Retrofit all existing plumbing fixtures prior to change of ownership
Los Angeles	-Allowing leaks from any pipe or fixture to go unrepaired -When building permit issued, retrofit measures required to improve water conservation of building.
Santa Clarita	Indoor and outdoor leaks must be repaired as soon as is reasonably practicable
Fountain Valley	-Leaks must be repaired within 72 hours of discovery by user or notification by City -New commercial/industrial laundry facilities shall be equipped with water reclamation system for reuse of rinse water



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WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Stage	Supply Reduction	Restrictions and Prohibitions
1	0%	Non-ag irrigation limited to 6:00 pm to 10:00 am
1		Graywater and recycled water for irrigation is permitted any day and time
2	15%	Stage 1 measures in effect, but become mandatory
2		Landscape irrigation limited to three days per week
2		Automatic timers shall be adjusted to irrigation time restrictions and eliminate runoff
2		Water appurtenances requiring repair or adjustment shall be corrected within 72 hours of notification by City
3	15-20%	All Stage 1 and 2 measures remain in effect, but Stage 1 is mandatory
3		Landscape irrigation limited to three times per week during April-October and two times per week during November-March



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WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Stage	Supply Reduction	Restrictions and Prohibitions
4	20-50%	All Stage 1, 2, and 3 conservation measures apply. Stage 1 is mandatory.
4		Watering of lawns is prohibited
4		Irrigation limited to designated hours and days and only allowed for supporting survival of trees and shrubs
4		Washing motor vehicles is prohibited except at a commercial car wash
4		Replenishing or filling pools, spas, ponds, and streams is prohibited
4		Operation of any ornamental fountain, pond, or similar structure is prohibited
4		Water used for commercial or processing purposes shall be reduced as determined by City Council
5	>50%	No new construction meters will be issued
		No construction water may be used for earth work such as road construction purposes, dust control, compaction, or trench jetting
		No new building permit(s) shall be issued with a few exceptions.

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2021 UPDATE TO WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Modification	Additional Explanation
Added clarifying language regarding the supply reduction percentage of each stage and its correlation to the State's standard shortage level	Ex) Stage 2 - "...RPU faces an actual supply shortage of up to 15%, corresponding to CA Water Code section 10632 shortage levels 1 and 2"
Added a fifth water shortage level	Water shortage >50%; Aligns with Stage 6 of State's standard shortage levels
Removed 15-30 minute irrigation run-time limit in consideration of deep-watering required by trees	US Dept of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Services states homeowners " <u>irrigate too often</u> and for <u>too short a period</u> to meet lawn and landscaping (tree and shrub) needs. Turf studies show most lawns only require irrigation once every 4-8 days to stay healthy. Shallow rooted plants result from irrigating every day. <u>Irrigating less often</u> and <u>applying more water per irrigation</u> results in deeper rooted plants and a healthier turf"

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2021 UPDATE TO WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Modification	Additional Explanation
Stage Two Shortage Level reduced number of watering days from four to three	<p><u>Reflects irrigation best management practices.</u> Landscape experts including the Irrigation Association, the UC Davis California Center for Horticulture, the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Services, and the UC Center for Landscape and Urban Horticulture recommend most established landscapes (i.e. lawns, trees, and shrubs) only require irrigation 0-3 times per week depending on the season.</p> <p><u>Mildly constraining restriction that can stave off more severe shortage level</u> The Alliance for Water Efficiency's "Use and Effectiveness of Municipal Irrigation Restrictions During Drought" study - "The tighter the level of irrigation restrictions, the greater the savings, especially during summer months when irrigation is typically at its highest level. From pre-drought to worse year of the drought, case study participants successfully reduced annual demand by 18-30% and peak monthly demands by 20-42%. This was done while operating in Stage 2 or 3 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans."</p>
Removed cooling mist prohibition under Stage Four	Cooling mists are not widespread or significant concern in the amount of water they use.

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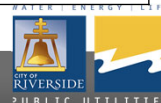
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APPROACHES FOR IMPLEMENTING MANDATORY CONSERVATION MEASURES

Conservation Measure	Water Provider	Notes
Stringent restriction on watering days	Carmichael Water District	Restricts 2x/week - Stage 2
	Eastern Municipal WD	Reduce watering by one day/week - Stage 2
Drought surcharge	City of Del mar	10% surcharge for all users on top of increasing block rate structure
	Irvine Ranch WD	Discretion to reduce outdoor base allocation and adjust pricing tier thresholds – Stage 2
Budget-based rates	Western Municipal WD	Approach to managing customer demands during all supply conditions and minimizing revenue impacts during water shortages
	Monte Vista WD	
	Irvine Ranch WD	
	Eastern Municipal WD	

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Committee review and provide input on the City of Riverside's 2021 Water Conservation Ordinance update.