

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT'S  
WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR WEST MARIN SERVICE AREA**

**April 29, 2016**

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**Customer Notification**

- I. January 1 water year classification “dry”
  - A. NMWD notifies customer by bill message.

“There are dry year conditions on Lagunitas Creek which may trigger implementation of water shortage contingency measures. Final determination will be made on April 1. Please use water wisely.”
  - B. NMWD issues press release in February and March informing that potential dry year conditions exist and promoting customer participation in NMWD water conservation programs.
- II. April 1 water year classification “normal”
  - A. Spring edition of NMWD West Marin “Water Line” promotes conservation measures.
- III. April 1 water year classification “dry”
  - A. Spring edition of NMWD West Marin “Water Line” informs customers of “Water Shortage Emergency,” public hearing and contingency measures. Water conservation programs and giveaways to be on display.
  - B. Stages of Action published as required in Point Reyes Light and posted at Point Reyes Station post office.

**Specific Triggers**

- Stage 1 Trigger:** When the total precipitation that occurs from October through April 1 of the following year is less than 28” as measured at the MMWD Kent precipitation gage and the period is April 1 through June 30, or when the NMWD Board of Directors determines that Dry Conditions prevail based on advice from NMWD staff or the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Stage 2 Trigger:** When the total precipitation that occurs from October through April 1 of the following year is less than 28” as measured at the MMWD Kent precipitation gage and the period is July 1 through November 1, or when the NMWD Board of Directors determines that Dry Conditions prevail based on advice from NMWD staff or the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Stage 3 Trigger:** When the total precipitation that occurs from October through April 1 of the following year is less than 28” as measured at the MMWD Kent precipitation gage and water demands in any preceding thirty-day period exceed an average of 433,000 gpd, or when the NMWD Board of Directors determines that Critical Dry Conditions prevail based on advice from NMWD staff or State Water Resources Control Board.

Consumption Limits (do not apply where private well or recycled water supply is used)

**Stage 1:** (Request for up to \_\_\_\_% voluntary reduction)

Residential: \_\_\_\_% voluntary reduction in water use from a prior year for similar billing period to be determined by the NMWD Board of Directors depending on circumstances in place at the time of enactment.

Commercial and Industrial: \_\_\_\_% voluntary reduction in water use from a prior year for similar billing period (exceptions may be granted in order to preserve jobs) to be determined by the NMWD Board of Directors depending on circumstances in place at time of enactment.

**Stage 2:** (Mandatory water use restrictions to enable reduction in water use up to \_\_\_\_%)

Residential: Water use for certain purposes are restricted as determined by the NMWD Board of Directors depending on circumstances in place at time of enactment.

Commercial and Industrial: Water use for certain purposes are restricted as determined by the NMWD Board of Directors depending on circumstances in place at time of enactment (exceptions may be granted in order to preserve jobs).

**Stage 3:** (Up to 50% mandatory reduction)

Residential: \_\_\_\_% mandatory reduction in water use from a prior year for similar billing period or maximum gallons per person per day allowance to be determined by the NMWD Board of Directors depending on circumstances in place at time of enactment.

Commercial and Industrial: \_\_\_\_% mandatory reduction in water use from a prior year for similar billing period to be determined by the NMWD Board of Directors depending on circumstances in place at time of enactment (exceptions may be granted to preserve jobs).

Stages of Action

**Stage 1** Voluntary - achieve \_\_\_\_% reduction<sup>1</sup> in water use by implementation of any of the following

- a. Encourage voluntary rationing;
- b. Pursue vigorous enforcement of water wasting regulations and provisions of District's Water Conservation Regulation 17 which requires water saving devices in new construction, prohibits installation of certain wasteful types of turf configurations, and encourages turf avoidance;
- c. Request customers to make conscious efforts to conserve water;
- d. Request other governmental agencies to demonstrate leadership and implement restrictive water use programs;
- e. Distribute water saving kits upon customer request, to assure availability to existing and new customers (Note: Similar kits were distributed system wide to all customers

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<sup>1</sup>Exact amount and District wide measurement of goal and method of achievement to be established by Board of Directors after examining projected supplies and after holding water shortage emergency public hearing.

during the 1976-77 California drought);

- f. Encourage private sector to use alternate water sources such as recycled water or use of private wells;
- g. Encourage the non-commercial washing of privately owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats only from a bucket and except that a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle may be used for a quick rinse.;
- h. Encourage nighttime irrigation;
- i. Request restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars or other public places where food or drink are served/purchased to serve water only upon request;
- j. Implement detailed measures from other stages to meet desired objective;
- k. Any use of potable water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fire, human consumption, essential construction needs or use in connection with animals;
- l. Navy style showering will be promoted (e.g., turn on water to wet person or persons, turn off water, lather up, scrub, then turn on water for a quick rinse, then turn off shower with free push button showerhead control valves available to customers upon request);
- m. Customers will be urged not to regularly flush their toilets for disposal of urine only;
- n. Request hotel and motel operators to provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily;
- o. Prohibit use of potable water for dust control at construction sites or other locations;

**Stage 2** Mandatory - achieve a \_\_\_\_% reduction<sup>1</sup> in water use by declaring a water shortage emergency and implementing Stage 1 (voluntary) and Stage 2 (mandatory) restrictions on water use for the following certain purposes

- a. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other exterior paved areas except by the Marin County Fire Department or other public agency for the purpose of public safety;
- b. Refilling a completely drained swimming pool and/or initial filling of any swimming pool;
- c. Non-commercial washing of privately-owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats except from a bucket and except that a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle may be used for a quick rinse;
- d. Watering of any lawn, garden, landscaped area, tree, shrub or other plant except from a hand-held hose or container or drip irrigation system except sprinklers can be used if customer maintains the volume or percent reduction pursuant to the NMWD Board of Directors determination compared to a prior year's use in same billing period;
- e. Any non-residential use by a vehicle washing facility in excess of the volume percent or reduction pursuant to the NMWD Board of Directors determination;
- f. Irrigating landscape other than between the hours of 7pm and 9am the following day;
- g. Irrigating landscape more than \_\_\_\_\_ days per week;
- h. Irrigating landscape during or within 48 hours of measureable precipitation;
- i. Irrigating with potable water of lawn area on public street medians.

- j. Intertie deliveries through the intertie to Inverness Public Utility District (IPUD), except for critical needs as determined by the General Manager.

**Stage 3** Mandatory – achieve up to a \_\_\_\_\_%<sup>2</sup> reduction in water use by declaring a water emergency and implementing Stage 1 (Voluntary), Stage 2 (Mandatory) and the following additional Stage 3 (Mandatory) requirements.

- a. Watering any residential lawn, or any commercial or industrial area lawn maintained for aesthetic purposes, at any time day or night during the period of July 1, through October 31. (These designated lawns will be allowed to dry up for the summer). Affected customers will be advised on tested methods for re-greening the lawns at minimum expense beginning on November 1, during a Stage 3 mandatory period if operating conditions permit. By following the prescribed instructions, the affected customers will likely avoid the cost of replacing lawns.
- b. Planting any new landscaping, except for designated drought resistant landscaping authorized by NMWD.
- c. Public groups may apply to the General Manager for exemptions for watering specific public lawns used extensively for community wide recreation. Such public area lawn watering shall only be done under methods and time periods prescribed by the General Manager. Such exemptions will only be given by the General Manager, if the mandatory \_\_\_\_\_% reduction in water can otherwise be achieved on a service area basis.
- d. All day and nighttime sprinkling will be discontinued. Any and all outside watering will be done only with a hand held nozzle. An exception will be made to permit drip irrigation for established perennial plants and trees using manual or automatic time controlled water application sufficient only for assured plant survival.
- e. No new annual plants, vegetables, flowers or vines may be planted until the Stage 3 mandatory period is over. An exception will be considered on a case by case basis for customers who are eliminating existing thirsty landscaping and replacing same with drought resisting landscaping prescribed by NMWD, as in b. above.
- f. Limit deliveries of water to outside service area customers to that needed for human consumption, sanitation and public safety only or as stipulated in outside service agreements.
- g. Discontinue all water deliveries through the intertie to IPUD.

<u>Plan Preparation</u>	This plan has been coordinated with County, State and Federal Emergency Services Offices.
<u>Adoption of Plan</u>	The Stage of Action will be enacted after public hearing required by the District's Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance and a determination by the District's Board of Directors that a West Marin Water Shortage Emergency exists.
<u>Monitoring of Actual Water Use</u>	Monitoring of water use will be by meters with data analysis using the District's computers.
<u>Mandatory Prohibitions</u>	<p>Wasting of water is prohibited by Regulation 17 of the North Marin Water District.</p> <p>Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan contain specific mandatory provisions.</p>
<u>Revenue and Expenditure Analysis</u>	<p>Temporary Drought Revenue Recovery Surcharge</p> <p>In the event that mandatory water use restrictions or mandatory reduction in water use is triggered (Stage 2 or Stage 3 herein), a Temporary Drought Revenue Recovery Surcharge may be implemented. The Temporary Drought Revenue Recovery Surcharge will serve to mitigate the revenue loss resulting from a reduction in water use. The Temporary Drought Revenue Recovery Surcharge shall be a quantity charge for each 1,000 gallons as specified in District Regulation 54.</p>