

## **Stage 1 Drought Water Restrictions – Draft Example**

### **Purpose:**

Stage 1 drought restrictions are intended to reduce non-essential water use during early drought conditions while allowing normal household, business, and public health water needs to continue.

### **1. General Conservation Requirement**

- All residents, businesses, public agencies, and property owners are encouraged to reduce water use.
- Non-essential water use should be limited wherever practical.
- Water should be used efficiently and only for reasonable household, commercial, landscaping, agricultural, public health, and safety needs.

### **2. Outdoor Lawn and Landscape Watering**

- Lawn and landscape watering is allowed, but should be limited to what is necessary to maintain healthy vegetation.
- Watering should occur only before **10:00 a.m.** or after **6:00 p.m.**
- Watering during rain, high winds, or freezing conditions is prohibited.
- Irrigation systems must be adjusted to prevent overspray onto streets, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, or gutters.
- Watering that causes runoff into streets, alleys, gutters, or storm drains is prohibited.

### **3. Suggested Watering Schedule**

To reduce peak demand, outdoor watering should follow a reasonable schedule, such as:

- **Odd-numbered addresses:** Water on odd-numbered calendar days.
- **Even-numbered addresses:** Water on even-numbered calendar days.
- **Public parks, schools, medians, and common areas:** Water according to an approved schedule.

A stricter schedule may be implemented if drought conditions worsen.

### **4. Hand Watering and Drip Irrigation**

- Hand watering of trees, shrubs, gardens, flower beds, and landscaping is allowed.

- Hoses should be equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Drip irrigation, soaker hoses, and other efficient irrigation methods are encouraged.
- Newly planted trees, shrubs, and gardens may be watered as needed for establishment, provided water is not wasted.

#### **5. Vehicle Washing**

- Vehicle washing is allowed when using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Residents are encouraged to use commercial car washes that recycle water.
- Water should not be allowed to run continuously while washing vehicles.

#### **6. Sidewalks, Driveways, and Hard Surfaces**

- Washing sidewalks, driveways, patios, parking lots, and other hard surfaces is discouraged.
- Washing hard surfaces is prohibited when it causes runoff or water waste.
- Brooms, blowers, or other dry-cleaning methods should be used unless washing is necessary for health, safety, or sanitation.

#### **7. Decorative Fountains and Water Features**

- Decorative fountains and water features may operate only if they use recirculated water.
- Non-recirculating decorative water features should be turned off.
- Water features should be inspected for leaks or excessive evaporation loss.

#### **8. Leaks and Water Waste**

- All known indoor and outdoor leaks should be repaired promptly.
- Broken sprinkler heads, leaking irrigation lines, and malfunctioning valves must be repaired as soon as possible.
- Continuous water flow from hoses, irrigation systems, or plumbing fixtures is prohibited.
- Repeated or excessive water waste may result in enforcement action.

## **9. Construction and Maintenance Uses**

- Water used for construction, dust control, street cleaning, and similar activities should be minimized.
- Recycled or non-potable water should be used where available and appropriate.
- Water system flushing should be limited to activities necessary for public health, safety, or system maintenance.

## **10. Exceptions**

The following uses may be exempt from Stage 1 restrictions:

- Firefighting and emergency response.
- Water needed for public health and sanitation.
- Essential water system maintenance.
- Commercial nurseries, agricultural operations, and food production, when using best management practices.
- Water required by permit, regulation, or health order.
- Approved establishment watering for new trees, shrubs, or drought-tolerant landscaping.

## **11. Enforcement**

- Stage 1 drought restrictions are primarily intended to promote conservation and prevent water waste.
- First violations may result in education, notice, or written warning.
- Repeated or excessive violations may result in fines or additional enforcement measures
- More restrictive measures may be implemented if drought conditions worsen.

## **12. Recommended Conservation Measures**

Residents and businesses are encouraged to:

- Reduce outdoor watering times.
- Repair leaks immediately.
- Install low-flow fixtures where possible.

- Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads.
- Sweep instead of washing paved surfaces.
- Use mulch around trees and plants.
- Replace high-water-use landscaping with drought-tolerant plants.
- Avoid watering during the hottest part of the day.
- Turn off irrigation systems after rainfall.