

Model Drought Response Ordinance
Drought Response Levels and Water-Use Restrictions

Drought Response Levels		Trigger	Voluntary or Mandatory Restrictions	Customer Conservation Targets	Water Authority DMP Stage
Level 1	Drought Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 applies when the Water Authority notifies its member agencies that due to drought or other supply reductions, there is a reasonable probability of supply shortages and that a consumer demand reduction of up to 10% is required in order ensure that sufficient supplies will be available to meet anticipated demands. The [AGENCY GENERAL MANAGER] shall declare the existence of Level 1 and take action to implement the Level 1 conservation practices identified in this ordinance. 	Voluntary	Up to 10%	Stage 1 or Stage 2
Level 2	Drought Alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 applies when the Water Authority notifies its member agencies that due to cutbacks caused by drought or other reduction in supplies, a consumer demand reduction of up to 20% is required in order to have sufficient supplies available to meet anticipated demands. The [AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS] shall declare the existence of Level 2 condition and implement the mandatory Level 2 conservation measures identified in this ordinance. 	Mandatory	Up to 20%	Stage 2 or Stage 3
Level 3	Drought Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 3 applies when the Water Authority notifies its member agencies that due to increasing cutbacks caused by drought or other reduction of supplies, a consumer demand reduction of up to 40% is required in order to have sufficient supplies available to meet anticipated demands. The [AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS] shall declare the existence of a Level 3 condition and implement the Level 3 conservation measures identified in this ordinance. 	Mandatory	Up to 40%	Stage 3
Level 4	Drought Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Level 4 condition applies when the Water Authority Board declares a water shortage emergency pursuant to Water Code Section 350 and notifies its member agencies that Level 4 requires a demand reduction of more than 40% in order for the [AGENCY] to have maximum supplies available to meet anticipated demands. [AGENCY] shall declare a Drought Emergency in the manner provided in Water Code Section 350. 	Mandatory	Above 40%	Stage 3

Drought Response Levels		Voluntary or Mandatory Use Restrictions	Retail Conservation Levels	Water Authority DMP Stage
Level 1	Drought Watch	Voluntary	Up to 10%	Stage 1 or Stage 2
Water-Use Restrictions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop washing down paved surfaces, including but not limited to sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or patios, except when it is necessary to alleviate safety or sanitation hazards. 2. Stop water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, low head drainage, or overspray, etc. Similarly, stop water flows onto non-targeted areas, such as adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, hardscapes, roadways, or structures. 3. Irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only. 4. Use a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or bucket to water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties that are not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system. 5. Irrigate nursery and commercial grower's products before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only. Watering is permitted at any time with a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a bucket, or when a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment is used. Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time. Watering of livestock is permitted at any time. 6. Use re-circulated water to operate ornamental fountains. 7. Wash vehicles using a bucket and a hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, mobile high pressure/low volume wash system, or at a commercial site that re-circulates (reclaims) water on-site. Avoid washing during hot conditions when additional water is required due to evaporation. 8. Serve and refill water in restaurants and other food service establishments only upon request. 9. Offer guests in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments the option of not laundering towels and linens daily. 10. Repair all water leaks within five (5) days of notification by the [AGENCY] unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. 11. Use recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available. 			

Restrictions shall not apply to use of water from private wells or to the use of recycled water.

Drought Response Levels		Voluntary or Mandatory Use Restrictions	Retail Conservation Levels	Water Authority DMP Stage
Level 2	Drought Alert	Mandatory	Up to 20%	Stage 2 or Stage 3
Water-Use Restrictions	<p>Level 1 water-use restriction, plus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than three assigned days per week on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the [AGENCY]. During the months of November through May, landscape irrigation is limited to no more than once per week on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the [AGENCY]. This section shall not apply to commercial growers or nurseries. 2. Limit lawn watering and landscape irrigation using sprinklers to no more than ten (10) minutes per watering station per day. This provision does not apply to landscape irrigation systems using water efficient devices, including but not limited to: weather based controllers, drip/micro-irrigation systems and stream rotor sprinklers. 3. Water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties, and not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system governed by section 5 (b) (1), on the same schedule set forth in section 5 (b) (1) by using a bucket, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation. 4. Repair all leaks within seventy-two (72) hours of notification by the [AGENCY] unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. 5. Stop operating ornamental fountains or similar decorative water features unless recycled water is used. 			

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Drought Response Levels		Voluntary or Mandatory Use Restrictions	Retail Conservation Levels	Water Authority DMP Stage
Level 3	Drought Critical	Mandatory	Up to 40%	Stage 3
Water-Use Restrictions	<p>Level 1 and 2 water-use restriction, plus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than two assigned days per week on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the [AGENCY]. During the months of November through May, landscape irrigation is limited to no more than once per week on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the [AGENCY]. This section shall not apply to commercial growers or nurseries. 2. Water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties, and not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system governed by section 6 (b) (1), on the same schedule set forth in section 6 (b) (1) by using a bucket, hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation. 3. Stop filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to declaration of a drought response level under this ordinance. 4. Stop washing vehicles except at commercial carwashes that re-circulate water, or by high pressure/low volume wash systems. 5. Repair all leaks within forty-eight (48) hours of notification by the [AGENCY] unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. 			
	<p>* No new potable water service shall be provided, no new temporary meters or permanent meters shall be provided, and no statements of immediate ability to serve or provide potable water service (such as, will serve letters, certificates or letters of availability) shall be issued, except under the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A valid, unexpired building permit has been issued for the project; or 2. The project is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare; or 3. The applicant provides substantial evidence of an enforceable commitment that water demands for the project will be offset prior to the provision of a new water meter(s) to the satisfaction of [AGENCY]. <p>This provision shall not be construed to preclude the resetting or turn-on of meters to provide continuation of water service or to restore service that has been interrupted for a period of one year or less.</p> <p>* Upon declaration of Drought Response Level 3 condition, [AGENCY] will suspend consideration of annexations to its service area.</p> <p>* The [AGENCY] may establish a water allocation for property served by the [AGENCY] using a method that does not penalize persons for the implementation of conservation methods or the installation of water saving devices.</p>			

Restrictions shall not apply to use of water from private wells or to the use of recycled water.

Drought Response Levels		Voluntary or Mandatory Use Restrictions	Retail Conservation Levels	Water Authority DMP Stage
Level 4	Drought Emergency	Mandatory	Above 40%	Stage 3
Water-Use Restrictions	<p>Level 1, 2, and 3 water-use restriction, plus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop all landscape irrigation, except crops and landscape products of commercial growers and nurseries. This restriction shall not apply to the following categories of use unless the [AGENCY] has determined that recycled water is available and may be lawfully applied to the use. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintenance of trees and shrubs that are watered on the same schedule set forth in section 6 (b) (1) by using a bucket, hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation; B. Maintenance of existing landscaping necessary for fire protection as specified by the Fire Marshal of the local fire protection agency having jurisdiction over the property to be irrigated; C. Maintenance of existing landscaping for erosion control; D. Maintenance of plant materials identified to be rare or essential to the well being of rare animals; E. Maintenance of landscaping within active public parks and playing fields, day care centers, school grounds, cemeteries, and golf course greens, provided that such irrigation does not exceed two (2) days per week according to the schedule established under section 6 (b) (1); F. Watering of livestock; and G. Public works projects and actively irrigated environmental mitigation projects. 2. Repair all water leaks within twenty-four (24) hours of notification by the [AGENCY] unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. 			
	* The [AGENCY] may establish a water allocation for property served by the [AGENCY].			

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