

Drought Preparedness Program Elements

This is a summary of recommendations that would be provided to water providers and users. Depending on local conditions, additional recommendations may be provided. Progressive drought stages (from Drought Watch through Stage 3) are meant to replace the previous drought stage. Each progressive drought stage includes targeted and increased education and outreach.

Element	Routine	Drought Watch	Stage 1 Warning	Stage 2 Severe	Stage 3 Exceptional
<i>Outdoor watering and irrigation</i>					
Lawn grass (residential, HOA, commercial, industrial, institutional)	Water no more than 3 days a week. To reduce evaporative loss, avoid outside lawn irrigation between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Do not cause water to pool in gutters/streets. Adjust sprinklers to avoid spraying on concrete or asphalt. Repair leaking sprinkler systems immediately. Avoid cutting lawn grass shorter than 3". Do not water when raining or during high winds. Install smart irrigation systems and/or sensors that measure rain and/or soil moisture.	Warn of and prepare for the possibility of mandatory watering restrictions. Voluntary two days per week lawn grass watering from 6:00 pm to 10:00 am. Follow best management practices for Watering a Home Landscape During Drought as recommended in Appendix C.	No more than two days per week watering from 6:00 pm to 10:00 am. Follow best management practices for Watering a Home Landscape During Drought as recommended in Appendix C.	No more than one day per week watering from 6:00 pm to 10:00 am. Follow best management practices for Watering a Home Landscape During Drought as recommended in Appendix C.	No lawn watering. Follow best management practices for Watering a Home Landscape During Drought as recommended in Appendix C.

Element	Routine	Drought Watch	Stage 1 Warning	Stage 2 Severe	Stage 3 Exceptional
<i>Outdoor watering and irrigation</i>					
Agricultural water ⁷ , golf courses, and vegetable gardens	Use only what you need. Repair faulty irrigation systems.	Increased education and outreach re: efficiency and funding sources.	Voluntary reductions.	Voluntary reductions.	Voluntary reductions.
Water wise landscapes, native/adaptive, Trees, shrubs, and perennials (private)	Increased education to transition landscape plants to xeriscape & native/adaptive plants.	Handheld watering or drip irrigation only.	Handheld watering or drip irrigation no more than 2 days per week between 6:00 pm and 10:00 am.	Handheld watering or drip irrigation no more than 1 day per week between 6:00 pm and 10:00 am.	Water no more than one day per month.
New landscape establishment	Encourage xeriscape and native/adaptive plants with drip irrigation systems.	Warn of potential for watering restriction under drought stages.	Not recommended.	Discouraged June through August.	Not allowed.
Municipal streetscape	Water efficiently. Repair faulty irrigation systems.	Handheld watering or drip irrigation only.	Handheld watering or drip irrigation no more than 2 days/week before 10:00 am.	Handheld watering or drip irrigation no more than 1 day/week before 10:00 am.	No watering.
Flowers gardens (private)	Water efficiently.	Water efficiently no more than three days per week using handheld and drip irrigation only between 4:00 pm and 10:00 am.	Water efficiently no more than two days per week using handheld and drip irrigation only between 4:00 pm and 10:00 am.	Water efficiently no more than one day per week using handheld and drip irrigation only between 4:00 pm and 10:00 am.	No watering.
Sport fields and parks	Water efficiently. Repair faulty irrigation systems.	Use only what you need.	Irrigated per mandatory scheduling or water budget restrictions to achieve a 10% reduction.	Irrigated per mandatory scheduling or water budget restrictions to achieve a 20% reduction.	Irrigated per mandatory scheduling or water budget restrictions to achieve a 30% reduction.

⁷ Agricultural Impact Task Force: https://engagecwb.org/agricultural-task-force?tool=story_telling_tool#tool_tab

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Water Features					
Swimming pools, hot tubs & other water features	No waste of water. Repair faulty irrigation systems.	Outreach and education to discourage frequent filling.	Discourage frequent refilling.	Single-family residential pools or hot tubs shall not be filled or refilled.	Operation of single-family residential pools and hot tubs will not be permitted. No filling of pools or hot tubs.
Washing / Events					
Cars - washing at home and charity events	With bucket or handheld hose with a nozzle that shuts off when not in use.	With bucket or handheld hose with a nozzle that shuts off when not in use. If possible, ensure water runs off into landscape features.	With bucket or handheld hose with a nozzle that shuts off when not in use. If possible, ensure water runs off into landscape features.	Not permitted. Must use commercial car wash.	Not permitted. Must use commercial car wash.
Fleet vehicle washing	No waste of water.	No waste of water.	Once every two weeks.	Once per month.	Not allowed.
Street cleaning	Use only what you need.	Increased education and outreach with municipalities.	Reduce water used for street sweeping.	Use water gained from flushing of hydrants.	Street sweeping for extreme health and safety issues only.
Driveway and sidewalk washing	Discourage under all circumstances: use dry clean methods.	Discourage under all circumstances: use dry clean methods.	Use dry clean methods and high efficiency equipment.	Washing and spraying on impervious surfaces is prohibited.	Washing and spraying on impervious surfaces is prohibited.

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<i>Commercial-Institutional Processes</i>					
Restaurants	Water served only on request.	Water served only on request.	Water served only on request.	Water served only on request.	Water served only on request.
Lodging	No restrictions.	No restrictions. Education and outreach to customers.	Change linens and towels only on request.	Change linens and towels only on request.	Change linens and towels only on request.
Mag chloride application / grading	Apply in springtime.	Grade only after rain events.	Grade only after rain events.	Grade only after rain events.	Grade only after rain events.
Bulk water / Construction water	No waste of water.	No waste of water.	No waste of water.	No waste of water.	No waste of water.
Hydrants	Utilize restrictive gated devices.	Minimize water main flushing.	Utilize restrictive gated devices. Minimize water main flushing.	Hydrant flushing is prohibited unless necessary for public health and safety reasons. Use of all water for fire training and use of water from hydrants is not permitted unless necessary for public safety.	Hydrant flushing is prohibited unless necessary for public health and safety reasons. Use of all water for fire training and use of water from hydrants is not permitted unless necessary for public safety.