

SECTION 39. WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PROGRAM

39.01 DECLARATION OF NECESSITY AND INTENT

(a) This Section establishes water management requirements necessary to conserve water, enable effective water supply planning, assure reasonable and beneficial use of water, prevent waste of water, prevent unreasonable use of water, prevent unreasonable method of use of water within the District in order to assure adequate supplies of water to meet the needs of the public, and further the public health, safety, and welfare, recognizing that water is a scarce natural resource that requires careful management not only in times of a water shortage, but at all times.

(b) This Section establishes regulations to be implemented during times of declared water shortages, or declared water shortage emergencies. It establishes four levels of actions to be implemented in times of shortage, with increasing restrictions on water use in response to worsening water shortage conditions and decreasing available supplies.

(c) The Level 1 water shortage response condition practices are voluntary and will be reinforced through local and regional public education and awareness measures that may be funded in part by the District. Beginning at the level 2 Water Shortage Response Condition, the District may implement water shortage pricing. When a water shortage response Level 2 condition is declared, all conservation practices and water-use restrictions may become mandatory and increasingly restrictive in order to attain escalating conservation goals.

(d) During a Water Shortage Response Level 3 condition or higher, the water conservation practices and water use restrictions established by this ordinance are mandatory and violations are subject to criminal, civil, and administrative penalties and remedies specified in Section 72 of this ordinance.

39.02 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE PROGRAM

(a) The following words and phrases whenever used in this Section shall have the meaning defined in this subsection:

1. "Grower" refers to those engaged in the growing or raising, in conformity with recognized practices of husbandry, for the purpose of commerce, trade, or industry, or for use by public educational or correctional institutions, of agricultural, horticultural or floricultural products, and produced: (1) for human consumption or for the market, or (2) for the feeding of fowl or livestock produced for human consumption or for the market, or (3) for the feeding of fowl or livestock for the purpose of obtaining their products for human consumption or for the market. "Grower" does not refer to customers who purchase water subject to the Metropolitan Interim Agricultural Water Program or the Water Authority Special Agricultural Rate programs.

2. "Water Authority" means the San Diego County Water Authority.

3. "DMP" means the Water Authority's Drought Management Plan in existence on the effective date of this Section and as readopted or amended from time to time, or an equivalent plan of the Water Authority to manage or allocate supplies during shortages.

4. "Metropolitan" means the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

5. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, public or private entity, public or private association, public or private agency, government agency or institution, school district, college, university, or any other user of water provided by the District.

39.03 APPLICATION

(a) The provisions of this Section apply to any person in the use of any water provided by the District.

(b) This Section is intended solely to further the conservation of water. It is not intended to implement any provision of federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations relating to protection of water quality or control of drainage or runoff. Refer to the local jurisdiction or Regional Water Quality Control Board for information on any storm water ordinances and storm water management plans.

(c) Nothing in this Section is intended to affect or limit the ability of the District to declare and respond to an emergency, including an emergency that affects the ability of the District to supply water.

(d) The provisions of this Section do not apply to use of water from private wells or to recycled water.

(e) Nothing in this Section shall apply to use of water that is subject to a special supply program, such as the Metropolitan Interim Agricultural Water Program or the Water Authority Special Agricultural Rate programs. Violations of the conditions of special supply programs are subject to the penalties established under the applicable program. A person using water subject to a special supply program and other water provided by the District is subject to this Section in the use of the other water.

(f) In addition, customers are encouraged not to wash 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.

At all times, the following practices shall be in effect:

1. Prevent water waste resulting from inefficient irrigation, such as runoff or overspray. Similarly, stop water flows

onto non-targeted areas, such as adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, hardscapes, roadways, or structures.

2. Serve and refill water in restaurants and other food service establishments only upon request.
3. Offer guests in hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.
4. Repair all water leaks within forty-eight hours (48) of notification by the District unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager or designee.

39.04 WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVEL 1 - SUPPLY WATCH
CONDITION

(a) A Water Shortage Response Level 1 condition is also referred to as a "Supply Watch" condition. A Level 1 condition applies when the Water Authority notifies its member agencies that due to water shortage or other supply reductions, there is a reasonable probability there will be supply shortages and that a consumer demand reduction of up to 10 percent is required in order to ensure that sufficient supplies will be available to meet anticipated demands. The General Manager shall declare the existence of a Level 1 and take action to implement the Level 1 conservation practices identified in this Section.

(b) During a Level 1 condition, the District will increase its public education and outreach efforts to emphasize increased public awareness of the need to implement the following water conservation practices. The same water conservation practices may become mandatory if the District declares a Level 2 condition:

1. Irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only. Customers are to water no more than three days a week using the suggested watering schedule as found on the District's web page. New plantings and newly seeded areas are exempt for 30 days.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Use re-circulated water to operate ornamental fountains.

5. Wash vehicles, including but not limited to motorcycles, farm equipment, trailers, boats and boat engines and motorhomes 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. Vehicle washing is limited to once per week.

6. Use recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available.

39.05 WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVEL 2 - SUPPLY ALERT
CONDITION

(a) A Water Shortage Response Level 2 condition is also referred to as a "Supply Alert" condition. A Level 2 condition applies when the Water Authority notifies its member agencies that due to cutbacks caused by water shortage or other reduction in supplies, a consumer demand reduction of 11 to 20 percent is required in order to have sufficient supplies available to meet anticipated demands. The District Board of Directors may declare the existence of a Level 2 condition and implement the Level 2 conservation practices identified in this section of the ordinance. The District may decide to implement some or all of the Level 1 practices.

(b) All persons using District water shall make every effort to comply with Level 1 water conservation practices during a Level 2, and also to comply with the following additional conservation measures:

1. Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than three (3) days per week. This section shall not apply to homeowner's vegetable gardens, fruit trees, commercial growers, or nurseries.

2. Limit lawn watering and landscape irrigation using sprinklers to no more than fifteen (15) minutes per watering station per day. During the months of November through April, landscape irrigation shall not exceed seven (7) minutes per water watering station per assigned day. Watering times may need to be shortened to avoid run-off. 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, rotating sprinkler nozzles 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 on the same schedule set forth above by using a bucket, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation.

4. Irrigation is not allowed during a rainstorm and for forty-eight hours after one-quarter inch or more of rainfall is measured at Lindbergh Field. No washing down of 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.

39.06 WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVEL 3 - SUPPLY CRITICAL CONDITION

(a) A Water Shortage Response Level 3 condition is also referred to as a "Supply Critical" condition. A Level 3 condition applies when the Water Authority notifies its member agencies that due to increasing cutbacks caused by

water shortage or other reduction of supplies, a consumer demand reduction of between 21 and 40 percent is required in order to have sufficient supplies available to meet anticipated demands. The District Board of Directors may declare the existence of a Level 3 condition and implement the Level 3 conservation practices identified in this Section.

(b) All persons using District water shall comply with Level 1 and Level 2 water conservation practices during a Level 3 condition and shall also comply with the following additional mandatory conservation measures:

1. Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than two (2) assigned days per week on a schedule established by the General Manager or designee and posted by the District. During the months of November through April, landscape irrigation is limited to no more than once per week on a schedule established by the General Manager or designee and posted by the District. 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 on the same schedule set forth above 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 water shortage response level under this Section.

4. Stop operating non-residential ornamental fountains or similar decorative water features unless recycled water is used.

5. Stop washing vehicles except at commercial carwashes that re-circulate water, or by high pressure/low volume wash systems. If a commercial car wash cannot accommodate the vehicle because of the vehicle size or type, such as RVs, horse trailers, boats and commercial vehicles, customers will be

allowed to wash vehicles using a bucket and a hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, mobile high pressure/low volume wash system.

(c) Upon the declaration of a Level 3 condition, the District may suspend new potable water service and statements of immediate ability to serve or provide potable water service (such as, will serve letters, certificates, or letters of availability) except under the following circumstances:

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 the District.

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.

(d) Upon the declaration of a Level 3 condition, the District will suspend consideration of annexations to its service area.

(e) The District may establish a water allocation for property served by the District using a method that takes into consideration the implementation of conservation methods or the installation of water saving devices. If the District establishes a water allocation, it shall provide notice of the allocation by including it in the regular billing statement for the fee or charge or by any other mailing to the address to which the District customarily mails the billing statement for fees or charges for on-going water service. Following the effective date of the water allocation as established by the District, any person that uses water in excess of the allocation shall be subject to a penalty for each billing unit of water in excess of the allocation. The penalty for excess water

usage shall be cumulative to any other remedy or penalty that may be imposed for violation of this Section.

39.07 WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVEL 4 - SUPPLY
EMERGENCY CONDITION

(a) A Water Shortage Response Level 4 condition is also referred to as a "Supply Emergency" condition. A Level 4 condition applies when the Water Authority Board of Directors declares a water shortage emergency pursuant to California Water Code section 350 and notifies its member agencies that Level 4 requires a demand reduction of more than 40 percent in order for the District to have maximum supplies available to meet anticipated demands. The District shall declare a Level 4 in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code section 350.

(b) All persons using District water shall comply with conservation measures required during Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 conditions and shall also comply with the following additional mandatory conservation measures:

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 District has determined that recycled water is available and may be lawfully applied to the use.*

A. Maintenance of trees and shrubs that are watered on the same schedule as noted in the Level 3 Condition, 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 the District's Level 3 Condition;

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 District unless other arrangements are made with the District.

(c) The District may establish a water allocation for property served by the District. If the District establishes water allocation it shall provide notice of the allocation by including it in the regular billing statement for the fee or charge or by any other mailing to the address to which the District customarily mails the billing statement for fees or charges for on-going water service. Following the effective date of the water allocation as established by the District, any person that uses water in excess of the allocation shall be subject to a penalty for each billing unit of water in excess of the allocation. The penalty for excess water usage shall be cumulative to any other remedy or penalty that may be imposed for violation of any provision of this Section.

39.08 CORRELATION BETWEEN DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMP)
AND WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVELS

(a) The correlation between the Water Authority's DMP stages and the District's water shortage response levels identified in this Section of the Code of Ordinance is described herein. Under DMP Stage 1, the District would implement Water Shortage Response Level 1 actions. Under DMP Stage 2, the District would implement Water Shortage Response Level 1 or Level 2 actions. Under DMP Stage 3, the District would implement Water Shortage Response Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 actions.

(b) The water shortage response levels identified in this Section correspond with the Water Authority DMP as identified in the following table:

Water Shortage Response Levels	Use Restrictions	Conservation Target	DMP Stage
1 - Supply Watch	Voluntary	Up to 10%	Stage 1 or 2
2 - Supply Alert	Mandatory	11 to 20%	Stage 2 or 3
3 - Supply Critical	Mandatory	21 to 40%	Stage 3
4 - Supply Emergency	Mandatory	Above 40%	Stage 3

39.09 PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION OF WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE LEVEL

(a) The existence of a Water Shortage Response Level 1 condition may be declared by the General Manager upon a written determination of the existence of the facts and circumstances supporting the determination. A copy of the written determination shall be filed with the Clerk or Secretary of the District and provided to the District Board of Directors. The General Manager may publish a notice of the determination of existence of Water Shortage Response Level 1 condition in one or more newspapers, including a newspaper of general circulation within the District. The District will also post notice of the condition on their website.

(b) The existence of Water Shortage Response Level 2 or Level 3 conditions may be declared by resolution of the District Board of Directors adopted at a regular or special public meeting held in accordance with State law. The mandatory conservation measures applicable to Water Shortage Response Level 2 or Level 3 conditions shall take effect on the tenth (10) day after the date the response level is declared. Within five (5) days following the declaration of the response level, the District shall publish a copy of the resolution in a newspaper used for publication of official notices.

(c) The existence of a Water Shortage Response Level 4 condition may be declared in accordance with the procedures specified in California Water Code sections 350 to 352 as note below:

*350. The governing body of a distributor of a public **water** supply, whether publicly or privately owned and including a mutual **water** company, may declare a **water** shortage emergency condition to prevail within the area served by such distributor whenever it finds and determines that the ordinary demands and requirements of **water** consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the **water** supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient **water** for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection.*

*351. Except in event of a breakage or failure of a dam, pump, Pipe line or conduit causing an immediate emergency, the declaration shall be made only after a public hearing at which consumers of such **water** supply shall have an opportunity to be heard to protest against the declaration and to present their respective needs to said governing board.*

*352. Notice of the time and place of hearing shall be published pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government **Code** at least seven days prior to the date of hearing in a newspaper printed, published, and circulated within the area in which the **water** supply is distributed, or if there is no such newspaper, in any newspaper printed, published, and circulated in the county in which the area is located.*

The mandatory conservation measures applicable to Water Shortage Response Level 4 conditions shall take effect on the tenth (10) day after the date the response level is declared. Within five (5) days following the declaration of the response level, the District shall publish a copy of the resolution in a newspaper used for publication of official notices. If the District establishes a water allocation, it shall provide notice of the allocation by including it in the regular billing statement for the fee or charge or by any other mailing to the address to which the District customarily mails the billing statement for fees or charges for on-going water service. Water allocation shall be effective on the fifth (5) day following the date of mailing or at such later date as specified in the notice.

(d) The District Board of Directors may declare an end to a Water Shortage Response Level by the adoption of a resolution at any regular or special meeting held in accordance with State law.