

ARTICLE 3 - WATER CONSERVATION

Section 3.01 Permanent Water Conservation Best Management Practices

The District promotes an ongoing voluntary water conservation program to ensure that water supplies available to the District are put to their maximum reasonable and beneficial use. Water Conservation measures are put in place to help prevent the waste of water, and serve as a guide for the District in response to water supply shortages and regional and state-wide impacts from drought and other emergency conditions.

The District recognizes that water is a scarce, natural resource that requires careful management not only in times of drought, but at all times. The District is hereby establishing permanent water conservation Best Management Practices that will be in effect at all times, regardless of whether a declared water shortage is in effect. They are necessary to conserve water, enable effective water supply planning, assure reasonable and beneficial use of water, and to prevent waste and unreasonable use of water. Should customer actions warrant, the District will issue violations and levy fees as appropriate under this Article 3 of the District Water Code.

Conservation under each stage applies to all customer classifications, including Residential, Commercial and Industrial water. The District's permanent water conservation measures and water shortage stages and required conservation measures are listed below.

(a) **Permanent Water Use Regulations:**

To prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water and to promote water conservation, each of the following actions is prohibited except where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal District:

- (1) Application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;
- (2) Use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
- (3) Application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
- (4) Use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
- (5) Application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall;
- (6) Serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating and drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased;
- (7) Irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or micro spray systems;
- (8) Irrigation with the potable water of turfgrass in public street medians;
- (9) Unauthorized use of hydrants. Authorization for use must be given by the District per Water Code Section 2.30(d);
- (10) New irrigation with potable water of turfgrass at commercial, industrial, and

institutional sites where the turfgrass is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events;

- (11) Excessive use, loss or escape of water through breaks, leaks or other malfunctions in the water user's plumbing or distribution system for any period of time after such escape of water should have reasonably been discovered and corrected and in no event more than seven (7) days of receiving notice from the District;
- (12) Installation of single pass cooling systems in buildings requesting new Water Service; and
- (13) Installation or operation of non-re-circulating water systems is prohibited in new commercial conveyor car wash and new commercial laundry systems.

- (b) **Hotel and Motel Laundry:** To promote water conservation, operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guestroom using clear and easily understood language.

Section 3.02 Water Supply Shortage Stages

In addition to the Best Management Practices that always apply, the District has established water shortage stages and required conservation measures for each stage. In order to conserve the District's water supply during a drought or other water supply emergency for the greatest public benefit with particular regard to domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection, each water shortage stage calls for additional demand reductions to meet the projected decrease in water supplies. Demand reductions are designed to minimize impacts to the District's customers and community while achieving conservation.

The Board may also implement water shortage surcharges in conjunction with setting water shortage stages, either within the same action or by separate action.

The following are the stages of water shortage which may be declared by the Board in accordance with applicable provisions of the California Water Code or State directives, the approximate ranges of shortage conditions the stages represent, and the necessary actions to reduce demand. The shortage stages shall take effect upon implementation by the Board. **Each stage's actions are in addition to the actions required by lower stages, which continue to be required, and the permanent Best Management Practices.** Each stage targets usage reductions, the baseline for which will be determined by the Board when the stage is set.

(a) **Stage 1 – Water Shortage Warning (Up to 10% Reduction)**

- (1) Fix water leaks within 72 hours;
- (2) Recommend use of water conservation kits supplied by PINE GROVE CSD or other water utilities;
- (3) Washing patios, parking lots, and tennis courts with water is prohibited;
- (4) Drinking water may not be used in scenic ponds and lakes except for the minimum amount needed to support existing aquatic life;
- (5) Water turfgrass only three times per week; and
- (6) Discontinue watering turfgrass, gardens or any other irrigation between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

(b) Stage 2 – Moderate Water Shortage (Up to 20% Reduction)

- (1) Emptying and refilling of swimming pools and hot tubs is prohibited. (Maintaining pools, hot tubs and fire protection storage facilities at normal operating levels is permitted);
- (2) Fix leaks within 48 hours;
- (3) Water turfgrass only two times per week;
- (4) Plant containers, shrubs, and vegetable gardens may be watered additional days using only drip irrigation or hand watering, provided that any such drip irrigation system or hose is equipped with a working and activated automatic shut-off device. Trees should be watered separately from turfgrass to retain tree health; and
- (5) No irrigation of landscaping for new construction.

(c) Stage 3 – Significant Water Shortage (Up to 30% Reduction)

- (1) Fix leaks within 24 hours;
- (2) Limit non-required hydrant flushing and line flushing;
- (3) Turfgrass watering is permitted only once per week. Plant containers, shrubs and vegetable gardens may be watered additional days using only drip irrigation or hand watering, provided that any such drip irrigation system or hose is equipped with a working and activated automatic shut-off device. Trees should be watered separately from turfgrass to retain tree health.

(d) Stage 4 – Severe Water Shortage (Up to 40% Reduction)

- (1) Limit or suspend issuing or providing new potable Water Services in addition to suspending annexations to the District's service area;
- (2) Turfgrass shall not be watered. Trees should be watered separately from turfgrass to retain tree health using only drip irrigation or hand watering, provided that any such drip irrigation system or hose is equipped with a working and activated automatic shut-off device. Plant containers, shrubs, and vegetable gardens may be watered only with water captured from indoor use.

(e) Stage 5 – Critical Water Shortage (Up to 50% Reduction)

- (1) Plants and trees may be watered only with water captured from indoor use;
- (2) Total household water use not to exceed 40 gallons per person per day. Customers will be strongly encouraged to reduce water use for bathing and laundry and to capture water from indoor use for toilet flushing.

(f) Stage 6 – Emergency Water Shortage (Over 50% Reduction)

- (1) Total household water use not to exceed 30 gallons per person per day;
- (2) Possible discontinuation of uses other than health and safety water uses;

- (3) Other mandatory restrictions and enforcement, as necessary and determined proper by the Board or its designee.

(g) Exemptions:

Customers may be exempted from application of these conservation Measures for a certain type of use if the Board issues a variance allowing such use based on a finding that enforcement of the applicable restriction would (1) cause an severe and disproportionate hardship to the customer applying for such variance, or (2) cause or threaten an immediate emergency condition affecting the health, sanitation, fire protection, or safety of the customer or of the public generally; or (3) cause the customer to violate a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal water District. The Board may require the installation and use of such water conservation devices or practices as deemed appropriate as a condition of the variance.

Section 3.03 Enforcement

PINE GROVE CSD's primary focus is customer education on the critical need to conserve our precious water resources. However, failure to observe these mandatory water conservation measures is a violation of the law and therefore may be subject to fines per District Water Code Sections 3.03, or 5.04 and 5.05 as deemed applicable by the Board.

Section 3.04 Hydrant Water Use During Board Declared Water Conservation

The District may restrict or eliminate the use of hydrant meters by customers during any declared conservation emergency. If hydrant usage is allowed, the District may require that it be under the direction of District personnel, and when possible, Untreated Water will be used.