County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

http://scceh.com/

Water Conservation Information Sheet

In response to the Governor's April 2015 Executive Order, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency regulations on May 5, to achieve the conservation goal of 25% reduction from 2013 levels statewide.

Included in the new regulations are the following:

> Distributors of a small to medium public water supply (typically serving between 15 and 3,000 connections) will be required to achieve a 25% conservation standard **or** restrict outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week. These water suppliers must submit a report on December 15, 2015 to demonstrate compliance to the State Water Board.

Both the state and the County, (Santa Cruz County Code Section 7.69.030) impose water use restrictions on individual users throughout the County. The following water uses are prohibited:

- Irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians; and
- Irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings not in accordance with emergency regulations or other requirements established by the Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.
- Using potable water to wash sidewalks, driveways, and other hard or paved surfaces;
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water;
- Using hoses with no automatic shutoff nozzles to wash cars;
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water;
- Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall;
- Restaurants serving water to their customers unless the customer requests it.
- Hotels and motels must offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily and prominently display this option in each guest room.
- The escape of water through leaks, breaks or malfunction within the water user's plumbing or distribution system for greater than 24 hours
- The use of potable water for dust control or soil compaction purposes in construction activities where there is a reasonably available source of reclaimed water appropriate for such use;
- The indiscriminate running of water or washing with water which is wasteful and without reasonable purpose;
- The irrigation of turf, landscape, or other vegetated area between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and for more than 15 minutes unless by drip irrigation, or by hand watering with a quick acting positive shut off nozzle.
- Irrigation of turf or ornamental landscaping more than two days in a week

County Ordinance on water conservation: http://scceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/ WaterConservationProgram/ProhibitedWaterUses.aspx

State Water Board Conservation Portal: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ conservation_portal/emergency_regulation.shtml

Water Saving Tips for In and Outdoors

- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it.
- Take a five minute (or less) shower.
- If you have an old high water use toilet, Install a toilet dam or displacement device such as a bag or bottle, or better yet:.
- Install new toilets that use less than 1.28 gallons, and water efficient washers, dishwashers, and showerheads (2.0 GPM or less).
- Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
- Operate clothes and dishwashers with full loads only – even if the machine has adjustable loads
- Check your clothes washer hoses regularly for cracks that could result in leaks
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean
- Install faucet aerators on sink faucets to reduce flow to 1 gallon/minute.
- Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water to operate properly and create more load on a septic system. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste
- Consider installing an instant water heater or recirculating pump and insulate your pipes to minimize water waste while waiting for hot water
- Put at least a 3-4" layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture and keep soil cool.
- Use drought tolerant plants.
- Consider reducing or replacing grass lawns or overhead spray irrigation landscape areas with food gardens, drought tolerant and native plants, mulch, or lawn alternatives. Don't overwater your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every five to seven days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter.
- Limit pruning to the removal of dead, damaged, or diseased branches, and dead foliage Pruning encourages new growth, which is much less tolerant of reduced water uptake
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Hire a Certified Green Gardener who has been trained to save water for landscaping needs
- Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended.
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose which can be adjusted so that water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks.
- Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway or sidewalk.
- Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation
- Install a laundry-to-landscape or other greywater system to water shrubs, trees, orchards and planting beds.
- Install rain barrels to collect and reuse rainwater to cover a portion of your landscaping
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- If you haven't done so already, install a meter on your well to learn your usage
- Use soil moisture meters to make sure you aren't watering unnecessarily
- Use hay to supplement dry pastures
- Consider washing your animals, including horses, less frequently

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