

# Grimes Water Supply Water Conservation Plan

As we are continuing to work through the mitigation plan in the event that the drought is as bad as predicted. This plan has been drafted to outline the measures that will be taken to conserve our water supply.

Note – Each household will be given three warnings within one month before their water is disconnected and a \$50 reconnect fee is charged while in Stages I and II. In Stage III only one warning will be given.

## **Stage “0”-Water Conservation measures that the City will always encourage**

Conscientious use of water will be encouraged as described below:

- Water lawns early in the morning, prior to 6:00 a.m., to take advantage of the coolest times when the evaporation rate is less. Irrigating in the evening may result in potential fungus development on the lawn.
- Check the interior plumbing for faucet or toilet leaks, and make the necessary repairs. To detect potential leaks, listen for trickles of water or frequent water valve operations. ***The Grimes Water Department is always available to do a leak survey/water audit by scheduling an appointment with City Hall.***
- Clean outside surfaces such as patios, driveways, and sidewalks using a broom rather than a hose.
- Wash vehicles with a bucket and hose that has a shut-off nozzle, rather than continuously running a hose.
- Fill sinks with water for tasks such as washing dishes, preparing food, brushing teeth, and shaving rather than leaving water running.
- Suggest installing water-saving devices in showers.
- Use automatic dishwashers and washing machines with only full loads whenever possible.
- Store a container of drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running water from the faucet to cool it.
- Encourage wise use of water during outdoor play, e.g., playing in the sprinkler, water toys, and swimming pools.
- Encourage shorter shower times, or bathe in partially full bathtubs.
- Refrain from using the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray.

## **STAGE I “Water Watch” Minor Conservation/Rationing**

**There is an indication that without wise usage of water, a shortage could occur.**

These measures will be used to reduce consumption as follows:

1. Restate voluntary measures of STAGE 0.
2. Request water utility customers to water on alternate days, e.g., even numbered addresses may water on even days of the month, and odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered days of the month. Suggest watering between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
3. Advise utility customers to not cause or permit any use of potable processed water in such a manner or quantity that results in water ponding or running into ditches, gutters, storm sewer inlets and surface water drains.
4. Contact public agencies (City, County, State) to request assistance in implementing measures to conserve usage associated with their operations (to serve as an example for citizens) such as:
  - Consider closing recreational facilities with known water wastes, e.g., leaking pools and running drinking fountains until they are repaired.
5. Ask commercial businesses to voluntarily stop outside irrigation activities.
6. Survey areas of highly corrosive soils (indicated by failure history) or other areas of town with a history of water main breaks with leak detection crews
7. Recommend to City officials that the water shortage rate structure go into effect in Stage II.
8. Suspend Grimes Water Supply’s hydrant flushing program.
9. Request City officials to minimize water usage activities such as street flushing and watering golf courses/sports facilities. Be sure that all other activities are suspended before an emphasis is placed on golf courses/sports facilities.
10. After 30 days or less, if the maximum day water consumption has not been reduced by 10%, and there is still an indication that a water shortage could occur, proceed to Stage II. After 30 days or less, if the water demand is below the 75% pumping capacity threshold for a week or more then the utility will back off out of Stage I.

## **STAGE II “Water Warning” Moderate Rationing**

1. Mandatory measures will be implemented as follows:
2. Discontinue outdoor water usage (including filling pools, watering lawns, flower beds, landscapes, annual plantings and hose-washing of paved surfaces, etc.), except as noted below and except for commercial greenhouses. This is to include public agency watering activities.
3. Prohibit use of potable processed water to wash vehicles except at establishments that do so as a commercial activity. This prohibition includes fundraising activities.
4. Outdoor vegetable gardens shall only be watered on alternate days, e.g., even numbered addresses may water on even days of the month, and odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered days of the month. Allowable watering times are between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

- Watering that results in water ponding or running off into ditches, gutters, storm sewer inlets and outdoor drains is prohibited.
5. The use of hydrant meters for watering new seed or sod, dust control, settling backfill, or other construction purposes is prohibited. Hydrant meters in place will be removed by the City Water Department. Exceptions to this prohibition can be made on a case by case basis by appealing to the City Administrator.
  6. New sod or newly seeded lawns (that have been installed/planted before Stage II) may be irrigated for as much as eight hours out of the first twenty-four hours after seeding or installation of sod. After that time, for the next nine consecutive days, watering of the lawn may be done between 5:00 am to 8:00 am and between 8:00 pm and 10pm with daily applications of water not to exceed one hour of use. After that time lawns may only be watered on alternate days, e.g., even numbered addresses may water on even days of the month, and odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered days of the month. Suggest watering between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
    - No sod or seeded lawns will be allowed to be installed or planted after Stage II Rationing has gone into effect.
  7. After 30 days or less, if the maximum day water consumption has not been reduced by 30% and there still is an indication that a water shortage could occur, proceed to Stage III.

### **STAGE III: “Water Emergency” Severe Mandatory Rationing**

1. Stage I and II rationing are still in effect in addition to these Stage III measures
2. The use of potable processed water to wash any vehicle is prohibited, including vehicle washing as a commercial activity.
3. Outdoor vegetation shall not be irrigated with potable processed water except that:
  - Trees and shrubs that are less than four years old and planted before the establishment of the Stage III Severe Mandatory Rationing
  - Seeding and sodding that is less than one year old and done before the establishment of Stage III Severe Mandatory Rationing
  - The above exceptions may be watered once per week with the total weekly application not to exceed 1 hour. Any outdoor vegetation planted after the date of establishment of Stage III rationing is prohibited.
  - Vegetable gardens may be watered on alternate days, e.g., even numbered addresses may water on even days of the month, and odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered days of the month. Suggest watering between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. provided that drip irrigation or soaker hoses are used and the application does not exceed one hour per week.