

Memo

To: City Manager
From: Maintenance Supervisors
Date: May 7, 2015
Re: City's Water Conservation Plan

This is where the City stands at the beginning of May 2015 on the State of California's mandatory water rationing.

General Policy

The City must cut back 40% from the City's actual 2013 water usage for outdoor water irrigation and 25% in the City's facility usage. These cuts will be greater than the cuts in 2009 because it is based on water usage in 2013 and not total landscape area using historical ET (EvapoTranspiration) rates, which was the method used in the 2009 drought. Staff is forecasting less water being allocated this year than in the 2009 drought and is planning accordingly. The City will not be notified of its allocation numbers from Contra Costa Water District (CCDW) until after June 4th when it expects to mail the allocation amounts out to all Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) customers. As in the past drought all of the City's landscape water meters are pooled together so City Staff may allocate its water where it is most needed within the landscaping.

In areas watered using Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) potable water, the outdoor irrigation schedule cannot be more than two days a week. Since lawns are the largest user of water and two days a week will likely not be sufficient to keep them green during the summer months, the following lawns will not be irrigated:

A. All lawns in the Landscape District except the:

- Clayton Fountain (due to recent landscape renovation, this area has a high efficiency irrigation system meeting the state's Water Conversation Ordinance) The City will water it just two days a week as mandated; if the irrigation system cannot keep the lawn area semi green with just the two day watering schedule, City Staff will reevaluate and determine if the system should be shut down during the summer months.
- The lawns in the Downtown area at the Oak Street exit/ramp to Main Street, the "tear drop" (roses and boxwood median island) on Main Street, and the area surrounding the Holiday Tree. These areas receive water from an existing City groundwater well (see below for irrigation usage serviced by groundwater wells).

The following lawns at these City parks will not be watered (irrigated by CCWD potable water):

- North Valley Park
- Stranahan Park

The Clayton Community Park will be irrigated for the allowed two days per week in attempt to keep the fields semi green for human play. At this time the irrigation runs Monday night and Thursday night with the irrigation water meters shut down in between to prevent loss of water from mainline pipe breaks.

The parks in Westwood, The Grove, and Lydia Lane use groundwater well water (see below for irrigation usage at well sites).

B. Lawns at City Buildings

The City Hall courtyard will initially be watered two days per week in attempt to keep area semi green. City Staff will reevaluate and determine if this system should be shut down during the summer months.

The Community Library grounds are irrigated using groundwater well water (see below for irrigation usage at well sites).

C. WATERING WITH CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT (CCWD) POTABLE WATER

All landscaping supplied with water from the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) must be watered under State Water Board and Executive Order regulations that have been announced, which include the following: only two days per week, no watering between 9am and 5pm, no run off, and repair breaks or leaks as soon as possible. Staff priority (as in previous years of drought conditions) has been to keep as many of the City's trees, then shrubs, and last the groundcover alive with the newest landscaping renovations getting top priority.

The following is being done to monitor/save water and meet the City's allocated water supply: Read water meters every two weeks; shut off water meters that will not be used this year; shut off exterior public drinking fountains to deter misuse and potential water theft; and lock all quick couplers to prevent water theft and misuse.

At this time City Staff has turned off outdoor drinking fountains in the City parks (except at the Dog Park). Staff will monitor water usage at the Dog Park and if it becomes excessive we will determine if water should be shut off. As of now, all water features (i.e., Clayton Fountain, City Hall courtyard fountain, and the new Splash Pad at The Grove Park) have been shut down for public perception or in the case of the Splash Pad it is non-recirculated potable water.

Public restrooms remain open at City facilities for public health reasons except the exterior City Hall courtyard restrooms. A posted sign redirects the public to use the restrooms at the Clayton Community Library.

D. WATERING WITH CITY GROUNDWATER WELL WATER

The City owns and operates several groundwater wells. At this time, groundwater wells supplying non-potable water (i.e. not for human use or consumption) are not subject to the State's mandatory water restrictions and regulations. City wells exist at the following locations:

1. Westwood Park and Lydia Lane Park

By separate agreement, the water from these wells is used by the Oakhurst Country Club to irrigate its private golf course; well water is also used to irrigate portions of Westwood Park. The wells are monitored monthly by separate contract (paid by Oakhurst); should the groundwater levels of these wells dip below a pre-determined depth, the wells are shut down and each user (Oakhurst; City;

Westwood HOA) must convert to pre-connected potable water supplied by CCWD and then become subject to the State's outdoor irrigation restriction of no more than 2 days per week.

2. Clayton Community Library

This groundwater well, in addition to irrigating the Library grounds, supplies the water to irrigate the Clayton Road landscape from the Oakhurst Drive intersection to the Mitchell Canyon Road intersection, along old Marsh Creek Road from Clayton Road to Main Street, at the Town Center Sign grounds, and at the Main Street "tear drop" median island.

3. The Grove Park

This groundwater well, in the vicinity of the U.S. Post Office, is used to irrigate The Grove Park landscape and lawn, waters the Endeavor Hall landscaping, the landscape around the Endeavor Hall public parking lot, and the Center Street raised planter boxes.

Although not subject to the State's water restrictions, these City groundwater wells have been voluntarily limited to irrigate/water no more than three days in a one week period to help conserve the groundwater supplies and to lead by example in reducing water usage.

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