



Policy Number:	6060
Policy Title:	Water Conservation

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) is committed to the efficient use of water resources. For the purposes of this policy, efficient water use means the reduction of water loss, waste, and unnecessary use through water-use efficiency measures, conservation practices, and effective water management

2. WATER CONSERVATION STAGES

- 2.1. Upon declaration or amendment by the Board of Directors of a specific water conservation stage, the mandatory water conservation requirements associated with that stage shall take effect.
- 2.2. Short-term Stage 4 or Stage 5 water conservation requirements may be declared by the FOWD General Manager (GM) or the GM designee, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting. A short-term declaration shall apply to water shortage conditions anticipated to last forty-five (45) days or less.

3. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS: STAGES 1 - 5

3.1. STAGE 1 – NORMAL WATER SUPPLY

- 3.1.1. The FOWD water supply and distribution can meet normal water demand. Customers are requested to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%.
 - 3.1.1.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.
 - 3.1.1.2. Water shall be confined to the customer's property and shall not be allowed to run-off to adjoining properties or to the roadside ditch or gutter. Care shall be taken not to water past the point of saturation.
 - 3.1.1.3. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
 - 3.1.1.4. Voluntarily limit irrigating of ornamental landscapes to THREE DAYS PER WEEK based on an ODD-EVEN schedule. Customers with street addresses that end with an ODD number should irrigate only on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS. Customers with street addresses that end with an EVEN number should irrigate only on WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS, and SUNDAYS. Irrigating on MONDAYS is discouraged.

Date Adopted: April 13, 1993; Revision Dates: July 09, 2007; April 13, 2015; April 11, 2016; July 11, 2016; May 15, 2017; April 20, 2026
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- 3.1.1.5. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.
- 3.1.1.6. Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.
- 3.1.1.7. Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired within five (5) working days or less if warranted by the severity of the problem.
- 3.1.1.8. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. Pool draining and refilling shall be allowed only for health, maintenance, or structural considerations.
- 3.1.1.9. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks is prohibited.
- 3.1.1.10. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.
- 3.1.1.11. Voluntarily reduce water use by 20% compared to 2013.

3.2. STAGE 2 – WATER ALERT

- 3.2.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.
- 3.2.2. Water shall be confined to the customer's property and shall not be allowed to run-off to adjoining properties or to the roadside ditch or gutter. Care shall be taken not to water past the point of saturation.
- 3.2.3. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
- 3.2.4. Irrigating ornamental landscapes or turf shall be limited to a maximum of THREE DAYS PER WEEK based on an ODD-EVEN schedule. Customers with street addresses that end with an ODD number may irrigate only on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS. Customers with street addresses that end with an EVEN number may irrigate only on WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS, and SUNDAYS. NO irrigating is permitted on MONDAYS.
- 3.2.5. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.
- 3.2.6. Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.
- 3.2.7. Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired within five (5) working days or less if warranted by the severity of the problem.
- 3.2.8. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. Pool draining and refilling shall be allowed only for health, maintenance, or structural considerations.
- 3.2.9. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks is prohibited.

- 3.2.10. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.
- 3.2.11. Reduce landscape and pasture irrigation by 5 – 10%. Customers with ‘smart’ irrigation timers or controllers are asked to set their controllers to achieve 90 to 95% of the evapotranspiration (ET) rate. Drip irrigation systems are excluded from this requirement.
- 3.2.12. Reduce indoor water use by 5 – 10%. Contact FOWD for tips and techniques to reduce indoor water use.
- 3.2.13. Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.
- 3.2.14. Users of construction meters and fire hydrant meters will be monitored for efficient water use.

3.3. STAGE 3 – WATER WARNING

- 3.3.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.
- 3.3.2. Water shall be confined to the customer’s property and shall not be allowed to run-off to adjoining properties or to the roadside ditch or gutter. Care shall be taken not to water past the point of saturation.
- 3.3.3. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
- 3.3.4. Irrigating ornamental landscapes or turf shall be limited to a maximum of THREE DAYS PER WEEK based on an ODD-EVEN schedule. Customers with street addresses that end with an ODD number may irrigate only on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS. Customers with street addresses that end with an EVEN number may irrigate only on WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS, and SUNDAYS. NO irrigating is permitted on MONDAYS.
- 3.3.5. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.
- 3.3.6. Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.
- 3.3.7. Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired within two (2) working days or less if warranted by the severity of the problem.
- 3.3.8. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. Pool draining and refilling shall be allowed only for health, maintenance, or structural considerations.
- 3.3.9. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks is prohibited.
- 3.3.10. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.
- 3.3.11. Reduce landscape and pasture irrigation by 11 – 25%. Customers with ‘smart’ irrigation timers or controllers are asked to set their controllers to achieve 75 to

89% of the evapotranspiration (ET) rate. Drip irrigation systems are excluded from this requirement.

3.3.12. Reduce indoor water use by 11 – 25%. Contact your FOWD for tips and techniques to reduce indoor water use.

3.3.13. Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.

3.3.14. Users of construction meters and fire hydrant meters will be monitored for efficient water use.

3.4. STAGE 4 – WATER CRISIS: SHORT-TERM

3.4.1. The declaration of Short-Term Stage 4 water conservation requirements may be declared by the GM or the GM designee, subject to ratification by the FOWD Board of Directors in a regular or special session. A short-term declaration is for water shortage conditions expected for a duration of 45 days or less.

3.4.1.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.

3.4.1.2. Water shall be confined to the customer's property and shall not be allowed to run-off to adjoining properties or to the roadside ditch or gutter. Care shall be taken not to water past the point of saturation.

3.4.1.3. Irrigating ornamental landscapes or turf shall be limited to a maximum of THREE DAYS PER WEEK based on an ODD-EVEN schedule. Customers with street addresses that end with an ODD number may irrigate only on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS. Customers with street addresses that end with an EVEN number may irrigate only on WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS, and SUNDAYS. NO irrigating is permitted on MONDAYS.

3.4.1.4. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.

3.4.1.5. Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.

3.4.1.6. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.

3.4.1.7. Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired within 24 hours or less if warranted by the severity of the problem.

3.4.1.8. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. Pool draining and refilling shall be allowed only for health, maintenance, or structural considerations.

3.4.1.9. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, or buildings is prohibited.

3.4.1.10. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.

- 3.4.1.11. Reduce landscape and pasture irrigation by 26 – 50%. Customers with ‘smart’ irrigation timers or controllers are asked to set their controllers to achieve 50 to 74% of the evapotranspiration (ET) rate. Drip irrigation systems are NOT excluded from this requirement.
- 3.4.1.12. Reduce indoor water use by 26 – 50%. Contact FOWD for tips and techniques to reduce indoor water use.
- 3.4.1.13. Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.
- 3.4.1.14. Flushing of sewers or fire hydrants is prohibited except in case of emergency and for essential operations.
- 3.4.1.15. Irrigating outside of newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or micro spray systems is prohibited.

3.5. STAGE 4 – WATER CRISIS: LONG-TERM

- 3.5.1. The declaration of Long-Term Stage 4 water conservation requirements will be declared by the FOWD Board of Directors in a regular or special session. A Long-term declaration is for water shortage conditions expected for a duration of more than 45 days.
 - 3.5.1.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.
 - 3.5.1.2. Water shall be confined to the customer’s property and shall not be allowed to run-off to adjoining properties or to the roadside ditch or gutter. Care shall be taken not to water past the point of saturation.
 - 3.5.1.3. Irrigating ornamental landscapes or turf shall be limited to a maximum of THREE DAYS PER WEEK based on an ODD-EVEN schedule. Customers with street addresses that end with an ODD number may irrigate only on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS. Customers with street addresses that end with an EVEN number may irrigate only on WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS, and SUNDAYS. NO irrigating is permitted on MONDAYS.
 - 3.5.1.4. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.
 - 3.5.1.5. Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.
 - 3.5.1.6. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
 - 3.5.1.7. Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired within 24 hours or less if warranted by the severity of the problem.
 - 3.5.1.8. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. Pool draining and refilling shall be allowed only for health, maintenance, or structural considerations.

- 3.5.1.9. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, or buildings is prohibited.
- 3.5.1.10. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.
- 3.5.1.11. Reduce landscape and pasture irrigation by 26 – 50%. Customers with ‘smart’ irrigation timers or controllers are asked to set their controllers to achieve 50 to 74% of the evapotranspiration (ET) rate. Drip irrigation systems are NOT excluded from this requirement.
- 3.5.1.12. Reduce indoor water use by 26 – 50%. Contact FOWD for tips and techniques to reduce indoor water use.
- 3.5.1.13. Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.
- 3.5.1.14. Flushing of sewers or fire hydrants is prohibited except in case of emergency and for essential operations.
- 3.5.1.15. Irrigating outside of newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or micro spray systems is prohibited.

3.6. STAGE 5 – WATER EMERGENCY: SHORT-TERM

- 3.6.1. The declaration of Short-Term Stage 5 water conservation requirements may be declared by the FOWD GM or the GM designee and subject to ratification by the FOWD Board of Directors in a regular or special session. A short-term declaration is for water shortage conditions expected for a duration of 45 days or less.
 - 3.6.1.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.
 - 3.6.1.2. Landscape and pasture irrigation is prohibited.
 - 3.6.1.3. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
 - 3.6.1.4. Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired immediately. Water service will be suspended until repairs are made.
 - 3.6.1.5. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. No potable water from the FOWD system shall be used to fill or refill swimming pools, artificial lakes, ponds or streams. Water use for ornamental ponds and fountains is prohibited.
 - 3.6.1.6. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, or buildings is prohibited.
 - 3.6.1.7. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.
 - 3.6.1.8. Reduce indoor water use by more than 50%. Contact your water provider for tips and techniques to reduce indoor water use.

- 3.6.1.9. Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.
- 3.6.1.10. Water flow for testing and construction purposes from water agency fire hydrants and blow-offs is prohibited. No potable water from the FOWD system shall be used for construction purposes including but not limited to dust control, compaction, or trench jetting. Use of reclaimed water for construction purposes is encouraged.
- 3.6.1.11. Flushing of sewers or fire hydrants is prohibited except in case of emergency and for essential operations.
- 3.6.1.12. Installation of new turf or landscaping is prohibited.
- 3.6.1.13. Automobiles or equipment shall be washed only at commercial establishments that use recycled or reclaimed water.

3.7. STAGE 5 – WATER EMERGENCY: LONG-TERM

- 3.7.1. The declaration of Long-Term Stage 5 water conservation requirements will be declared by the FOWD Board of Directors in a regular or special session. A Long-term declaration is for water shortage conditions expected for a duration of more than 45 days.
 - 3.7.1.1. Water shall be used for beneficial purposes only; all unnecessary and wasteful uses of water are prohibited.
 - 3.7.1.2. Landscape and pasture irrigation is prohibited.
 - 3.7.1.3. Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be attached on any hose or filling apparatus in use.
 - 3.7.1.4. Leaking customer pipes shall be repaired immediately. Water service will be suspended until repairs are made.
 - 3.7.1.5. All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump and shall be constructed to be leak-proof. No potable water from the FOWD system shall be used to fill or refill swimming pools, artificial lakes, ponds or streams. Water use for commercial and multi-family residential ornamental ponds and fountains is prohibited.
 - 3.7.1.6. Washing streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, or buildings is prohibited.
 - 3.7.1.7. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the FOWD conservation programs and rebates.
 - 3.7.1.8. Reduce indoor water use by more than 50%.
 - 3.7.1.9. Restaurants shall serve water only upon request.

- 3.7.1.10. Water flow for testing and construction purposes from FOWD fire hydrants and blow-offs is prohibited. No potable water from the FOWD system shall be used for construction purposes including but not limited to dust control, compaction, or trench jetting. Use of reclaimed water for construction purposes is encouraged.
- 3.7.1.11. Flushing of sewers or fire hydrants is prohibited except in case of emergency and for essential operations.
- 3.7.1.12. Installation of new turf or landscaping is prohibited.
- 3.7.1.13. Automobiles or equipment shall be washed only at commercial establishments that use recycled or reclaimed water.
- 3.7.1.14. New connections to the FOWD water distribution system will not be allowed.
- 3.7.1.15. Water Crisis/Emergency tiered pricing will be implemented.
- 3.7.1.16. No commitments will be made to provide service for new water service connections.

4. NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. Non-functional turf means any irrigated lawn area that is ornamental and not regularly used for recreation or public gatherings, and includes turf located within street rights-of-way, business frontage, and parking lots.
- 4.2. The use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf located on commercial, industrial, and institutional properties, other than a cemetery, and on properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities is prohibited as of the following dates:
 - 4.2.1. All properties owned by the Department of General Services, beginning January 1, 2027.
 - 4.2.2. All properties owned by local governments, local or regional public agencies, and public water systems, beginning January 1, 2027.
 - 4.2.3. All other institutional properties and all commercial beginning January 1, 2028.
 - 4.2.4. All common areas of properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities, beginning January 1, 2029.
- 4.3. The use of potable water is not prohibited by this policy to the extent necessary to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non turf plantings, or to the extent necessary to address an immediate health and safety need.

5. ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1. The FOWD shall terminate water service to the property of a customer who receives two violations of noncompliance with conditions set forth herein.
- 5.2. Customers issued a warning or violation notice shall be provided a specified period, as determined by the FOWD, to correct the violation. A second warning or violation shall not be issued on the same day.
- 5.3. Upon observation by authorized FOWD personnel of a water waste condition, the FOWD shall issue a warning with the first two observations by personal service or by notice left on premises requesting compliance with the FOWD conservation rules.
- 5.4. Upon observation by authorized FOWD personnel of a third water waste condition at the same property address, the customer shall be issued a violation by personal service or by notice left on the premises and a copy mailed to customer at the premises. The customer shall be notified, in writing, that if an additional observation of water waste is documented, the FOWD shall issue a 2nd violation notice and begin termination actions of water service to the subject address. In lieu of service termination, the FOWD may impose a penalty charge for water waste. The FOWD shall indicate in writing said penalty charge, if applicable, in the violation notice. If the customer is not the property owner, a copy of the writing shall be mailed to the owner of record.
- 5.5. Upon observation by authorized FOWD personnel of a fourth, or subsequent water waste condition at the same property address, the customer shall be issued a violation notice by personal service or by notice left on premises and a copy mailed to the customer at the premises. The owner/customer shall then be notified, in writing by certified mail, that the water service to the subject address shall be terminated in fifteen (15) days. Reconnection to the FOWD system after said termination procedure shall require correction of the water waste condition, and subject to a reconnect charge equal to the FOWD's actual incurred costs to date, including penalty fees, or to a minimum charge as follows, whichever is greater:

1 st reconnect charge	\$100.00 per service connection
2 nd reconnect charge	\$200.00 per service connection
3 rd reconnect charge	\$300.00 per service connection
4 th reconnect charge	\$400.00 per service connection
- 5.6. Subsequent violations shall be treated in the same manner as a 4th water waste or 2nd violation (subsequent reconnect charges applied).
- 5.7. Prior to the scheduled termination, the customer may choose to pay the FOWD's costs associated with the subject action, and any penalty costs in lieu of terminating service. The customer may, in writing, request a meeting with FOWD's GM to discuss the proposed termination of service. Payment of the penalty charge and fees shall avoid said termination and shall be considered a "waiver of appeal".

- 5.8. If the customer requests a meeting with the GM, and said meeting does not resolve the proposed termination of service to the customer's satisfaction, the customer may request a hearing before the Board of Directors. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered to the FOWD office within five (5) days of the date of the meeting between the customer and the FOWD's GM.
- 5.9. If such request is made for a hearing before the Board, the matter shall be scheduled at the earliest possible date. A written notice of such hearing shall be mailed to customer at the premises at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such hearing.
- 5.10. Reconnection to FOWD's system after said termination procedure shall be subject to reconnect charges equal to the FOWD's actual incurred costs to date, including penalty fees, and other related charges. The FOWD must receive payment for said charges before the water service is restored.
- 5.11. The State Water Resources Control Board shall be notified upon termination and reinstatement of service.

If the customer is not issued a warning or violation for a period of one year from the date of the last observed conservation rules violation, enforcement actions shall revert to paragraph (1) of this section
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