

ARTICLE 17. - WATER CONSERVATION

Sec. 17.1 Declaration of Policy

California Water Code Sections 375 et seq. permits public entities which supply water at retail to adopt and enforce a water conservation program to reduce the quantity of water used by the people therein for the purpose of conserving the water supplies of such public entity. The Santa Fe Irrigation District (the District) hereby establishes a comprehensive water conservation program pursuant to California Water Code Sections 375 et seq., based upon the need to conserve water supplies and to avoid or minimize the effects of any future shortage.

Sec. 17.2 Findings

The Board finds and determines that a water shortage could exist based upon the occurrence of one or more of the following conditions:

Sec. 17.2.1

A general demand supply shortage due to increased demand or limited supplies.

Sec. 17.2.2

Distribution or storage facilities of San Diego County Water Authority (the Authority) or other agencies become inadequate.

Sec. 17.2.3

A major failure of the supply, storage and distribution facilities of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Authority, or of the District occurs.

The Board also finds and determines that the conditions prevailing in the San Diego County area require that the water resources available be put to maximum beneficial use to the extent to which they are capable, and that the waste or unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use, of water be prevented and that the conservation of such water be encouraged with a view to the maximum reasonable and beneficial use thereof in the interests of the people of the District and for the public welfare.

Sec. 17.3 Public Announcement

The declaration of any stage beyond STAGE 1 shall be made by public announcement and notice shall be published a minimum of three (3) consecutive times in a newspaper of general circulation. The stage designated shall become effective immediately upon announcement. The declaration of any stage beyond STAGE 1 shall be reported to the Board at a special or emergency meeting. The Board shall thereupon ratify the declaration, rescind the declaration, or direct the declaration of a different stage.

Sec. 17.4 Water Conservation Stages

No customer of the District may knowingly make, cause, use or permit the use of water supplied by the District for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner in excess of the amounts authorized

by the District's Water conservation Policy, or during any period of time other than the periods of time specified in the Policy. At no time shall water be wasted or used unreasonably. The following stages shall take effect upon declaration as herein provided.

Sec. 17.4.1 Stage 1 - Voluntary Compliance - Water Watch

STAGE 1 applies during periods when the probability exists that the District will not be able to meet all the demands of its customers. During STAGE 1, all elements of STAGE 2 shall apply on a voluntary basis only.

Sec. 17.4.2 Stage 2 - Mandatory Compliance - Water Alert

STAGE 2 applies during periods when the probability exists that the District will not be able to meet all of the water demands of its customers. The District is required to reduce water use by 10% from water used during prior fiscal year.

Sec. 17.4.2.1

Lawn watering and landscape irrigation is permitted only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. the following morning. Water is permitted at any time if a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a faucet-filled bucket five (5) gallons or less or a micro irrigation system is used. Micro irrigation is defined as a maximum application rate of 0.125 inch/hour.

Sec. 17.4.2.2

Agricultural users and commercial nurseries must comply with the same water use restrictions as all water users. The watering of livestock and irrigation of commercial nursery propagation beds are permitted at any time.

Sec. 17.4.2.3

Washing of autos, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes and other types of mobile equipment is allowed after 4:00 p.m. and before 10:00 a.m. using a bucket or hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses. Washing is permitted at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash. Further, such washing are exempted from these regulations where the health, safety and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleaning such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

Sec. 17.4.2.4

Filling or refilling of swimming pools and spas is permitted any time.

Sec. 17.4.2.5

Filling or refilling of ponds and artificial lakes is permitted at any time.

Sec. 17.4.2.6

Watering golf courses, parks, school grounds and recreational fields is permitted only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. the following morning, except golf course greens.

Sec. 17.4.2.7

Testing of irrigation heads may be done at any time. A person must be present administering and observing the test. Maximum time that a set of sprinklers will be permitted to be operated for testing is five (5) minutes per sprinkler station.

Sec. 17.4.2.8

The use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting and related activities, for metered construction activities, or other activities necessary to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Sec. 17.4.2.9

Water shall not be used to wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire or sanitation hazards. Users of water for construction purposes must demonstrate that water is not being wasted.

Tennis courts may be washed once per week in Stage 2 (10% cutback) if necessary to remove dust that cannot be removed with air blowers. If a customer has used no water in excess of their allocation for the most recent billing period, tennis courts may be washed for safety in accordance with the following conditions: If the owner of a tennis court desires to wash a tennis court, the owner shall submit a written request to the District for an assigned day each week when washing may occur. No washing will be permitted on other days.

Sec. 17.4.2.10

Restaurants shall not serve water to their customers except when specifically requested.

Sec. 17.4.2.11

No water shall run off property being irrigated on to the adjacent property, street or sidewalk because of over irrigation of landscaping, broken or unrepared sprinkler heads or garden hose left unattended, causing such waste of water.

Sec. 17.4.2.12

Properties using private wells and also receiving District furnished water must conform to water schedules and rules established by the District for use of District supplied water.

Properties using well, reclaimed or imported water (from a source other than SFID) can use it anytime if it is in a separate system than that which carries District supplied water. There can be no co-mingling of supply. Signs two feet by two feet

must be posted along public access areas stating that the water is non-potable and is not supplied by the District.

Sec. 17.4.2.13

Turn off automatic controls to sprinklers during rains or wet weather.

Sec. 17.4.3 Stage 3 - Mandatory Compliance - Water Warning

STAGE 3 applies during periods when the District will not be able to meet all of the water demands of its customers. The District requires a reduction in water use of 15% from the prior fiscal year. During STAGE 3, the following water conservation measures shall apply except when reclaimed water is used:

Sec. 17.4.3.1

Lawn watering and landscape irrigation is permitted only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. the following morning. Watering is permitted not more than twice weekly. Watering is permitted at any time if a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a faucet-filled bucket five (5) gallons or less or a micro irrigation system is used. Micro irrigation is defined as a maximum application rate of 0.125 inch/hour.

Sec. 17.4.3.2

Agricultural users and commercial nurseries must comply with the same water use restrictions as all water users. The watering of livestock and irrigation of commercial nursery propagation beds are permitted at any time.

Sec. 17.4.3.3

Washing of autos, trucks, boats, airplanes, and other types of mobile equipment is allowed after 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. when done with a bucket or hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses. Washing is permitted at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash. The use of water by all types of commercial car washes not using partially reclaimed or recycled water shall be reduced in volume by the amount established in each stage of compliance. Further, such washing is exempted from these regulations where the health, safety and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleaning such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

Sec. 17.4.3.4

Filling or refilling swimming pools and spas is permitted at any time. Pool and spa covers should be installed.

Sec. 17.4.3.5

Filling or refilling of ponds or artificial lakes is prohibited using District furnished water. Well water may be used to refill ponds and lakes. Signs two feet by two feet must be posted noticing such usage.

Sec. 17.4.3.6

Watering golf courses, parks, school grounds and recreational fields is permitted only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. the following morning. Golf course greens may be watered any time by hand-held hose to keep alive.

Sec. 17.4.3.7

Testing of irrigation heads may be done at any time. A person must be present administering and observing test. Maximum time that a set of sprinklers will be permitted to be operated for testing is five (5) minutes per sprinkler station.

Sec. 17.4.3.8

The use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting and related activities, District approved metered use or other activities necessary to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Sec. 17.4.3.9

Water shall not be used to wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate sanitation hazards.

Tennis courts may be washed bi-weekly during Stage 3 (15%) if necessary to remove dust that cannot be removed with air blowers. If a customer has used no water in excess of their allocation for the most recent billing period, tennis courts may be washed for safety in accordance with the following procedures and conditions: If the owner of a tennis court desires to wash a tennis court, the owner shall submit a written request to the District for an assigned day each week when washing may occur. No washing will be permitted on other days.

Sec. 17.4.3.10

Restaurants shall not serve water to their customers except when specifically requested.

Sec. 17.4.3.11

No water shall run off property being irrigated on to the adjacent property, street or sidewalk because of over irrigation of landscaping, broken or unrepaired sprinkler heads or garden hose left unattended, causing such waste of water.

Sec. 17.4.3.12

Properties using water from private wells and also receiving District furnished water must conform to water schedules and rules established by the District for use by District supplied water.

Properties using well, reclaimed or imported water (from a source other than SFID) can use it any time if it is in a separate system than that which carries District supplied water. There can be no co-mingling of supply. Signs two feet by two feet must be posted along public access areas stating that the water is non-potable and is not supplied by the District.

Sec. 17.4.3.13

Turn off automatic controls to sprinklers during rains or wet weather. Turn off or disconnect home reverse osmosis water treatment units and water softeners, which discharge water.

Sec. 17.4.3.14

The operation of any ornamental fountain or similar structure is prohibited unless non-District water is used and signs are posted notifying such use.

Sec. 17.4.3.15

Potable water shall not be used for earthwork or road construction purposes. Reclaimed or well water must be used. If a contractor can show well or reclaimed water is not available, the District may permit the use of potable water.

Sec. 17.4.3.16

The maximum size new meter that will be installed for single family residential use will be a 3/4-inch meter. Meters sized to meet domestic service only will be installed for multiple residential and commercial developments. No meters will be installed for agricultural or landscape irrigation. New landscaping must comply with accepted Xeriscape principles.

Sec. 17.4.3.17

The use of water for commercial manufacturing or processing purposes shall be reduced in volume by the amount established by the District.

Sec. 17.4.3.18

Golf courses must submit proof that a water management audit has been performed by a qualified irrigation specialist and that the recommendations are being followed.

Sec. 17.4.3.19

Renovation of existing landscape shall be prohibited except when xeriscape principles are applied. New landscaping must comply with accepted xeriscape principles.

Sec. 17.4.4 Stage 4 - Mandatory Compliance - Water Emergency

All conditions and restrictions that apply to STAGE 3 apply to STAGE 4. The District is required to reduce total usage by 20% from the prior fiscal year. Under STAGE 4 water will be rationed. All customers will be allowed to use 20 HCF per billing period plus 75.3 percent of their usage in excess of 20 HCF in the base period. Each additional multiple family unit will be allowed an additional 15 HCF per billing period. Additional allowances of 5 HCF per billing period will be made available for each permanent resident in excess of four per single family dwelling unit and three per multiple family unit.

Sec. 17.4.5 Stage 5 - Mandatory Compliance - Water Emergency

All conditions and restrictions that apply to STAGE 3 apply to STAGE 5. The District is required to reduce total usage by 30% from the prior fiscal year. Additional restrictions will be added when STAGE 5 is enacted. Under STAGE 5 water will be rationed. All customers will be allowed to use 20 HCF per billing period plus 63.0 percent of their usage in excess of 20 HCF in the base period. Each additional multiple family unit will be allowed an additional 15 HCF per billing period. Additional allowances of 5 HCF per billing period will be made available for each permanent resident in excess of four per single family dwelling unit and three per multiple family unit.

Sec. 17.4.6 Stage 6 - Mandatory Compliance - Water Emergency

All conditions and restrictions that apply to STAGE 3 apply to STAGE 6. The District is required to reduce total use by 40% from the prior fiscal year. Additional restrictions will be added when STAGE 6 is enacted. Under STAGE 6 water will be rationed. All customers will be allowed to use 20 HCF per billing period plus 50.6 percent of their usage in excess of 20 HCF in the base period. Each additional multiple family unit will be allowed an additional 15 HCF per billing period. Additional allowances of 5 HCF per billing period will be made available for each permanent resident in excess of four per single family dwelling unit and three per multiple family unit.

Sec. 17.4.7 Stage 7 - Mandatory Compliance - Water Emergency

All conditions and restrictions that apply to STAGE 3 apply to STAGE 7. The District is required to reduce total water use by 50% from the prior fiscal year. Under STAGE 7 water will be rationed. All customers will be allowed to use 20 HCF per billing period plus 38.3 percent of their usage in excess of 20 HCF in the base period. Each additional multiple family unit will be allowed an additional 15 HCF per billing period will be made available for each permanent resident in excess of four per single family dwelling unit and three per multiple family unit.

Sec. 17.5 Mandatory Conservation Phase Implementation

The District shall monitor the projected supply and demand for water by its customers on a daily basis. The Board shall determine the extent of the conservation required through the implementation and/or termination of particular conservation stages in order for the District to prudently plan for and supply water to its customers. Thereafter, the General Manager may order that the appropriate Stage of water conservation be implemented or terminated.

Sec. 17.5.1 Historical Use

If a customer does not have a history of water use, quantities will be assigned as historical use for single-family houses. Quantities for other types of use will be developed from similar uses by similar customers.

Sec. 17.5.2 Multiple Meters Serving One Property

Where more than one meter serves a single property the water allotment of all meters will be combined and usage of all meters added together.

Sec. 17.6 Enforcement and Surcharges

Sec. 17.6.1 Violation of Water Conservation Stage

1. The customer shall be issued a Courtesy Notice stating the violation of the water conservation stage for the violation at the service address.
2. Upon a second violation of same type a Warning Notice will be issued advising customer of the restriction of flow of approximately 10 gallons per minute upon a third citation. The Warning Notice will be left at the service address of the violation and mailed by first class mail to the billing address.
3. Upon a third violation of the same type, the District will notify the customer at the service address one business day before restricting the flow through the meter to approximately 10 gallons per minute for a period of fourteen (14) days. Prior to removal the customer must pay a \$100.00 fee for installing and removing the flow restrictor. For each subsequent violation, the District will again restrict the flow of water to the customer's meter to approximately 10 gallons per minute for a period of twenty-one (21) days on the second restriction, twenty-eight (28) days on the third restriction, etc.

Sec. 17.6.2 Violation Status

Violation status will be based on a 12-month moving year. One year after the first violation has elapsed, if there is a second violation it shall become the first violation of a 12-month moving year. A third violation shall then be considered a second, and this sequence will continue within successive 12-month moving years for any additional violations.

Sec. 17.6.3 Surcharges for Excess Water Use

Any customer who exceeds the District's water allotment for the Water Conservation Stage then in effect shall be subject to the charges given in Section 17.6.1(1) through Section 17.6.3(4).

During STAGE 4 only a single surcharge will be added to the regular water cost, regardless of the number of violations. For STAGES 5, 6 and 7, Section 17.6.1(1) through 17.6.3(3) will apply.

Sec. 17.6.3.1

On the first occasion a customer uses water in excess of the customer's allotment the customer will be charged the surcharge in addition to the regular water cost.

Sec. 17.6.3.2

On the second occasion a customer uses water in excess of the customer's allotment, the customer will be charged two (2) items the surcharge rate in addition to the regular water cost.

Sec. 17.6.3.3

On the third and subsequent occasion a customer will be charged three (3) times the surcharge rate in addition to the regular water cost. Upon a third and subsequent violation the District will notify the customer at the service address one business day before restricting the flow through the meter to approximately 10 gallons per minute for a period of fourteen (14) days. Prior to removal the customer must pay a \$100.00 fee for installing and removing the flow restrictor. For each subsequent violation, the District will again restrict the flow of water to the customer's meter to approximately 10 gallons per minute for a period of twenty-one (21) days on the second restriction, twenty-eight (28) days on the third restriction, etc.

Sec. 17.6.3.4

When Metropolitan Water District restrictions change or are renewed at the same reduction in water use, the following will apply. If the customer's total water use for the preceding period does not exceed the customer's total water allotment of that period, the use below the allotment will be credited to reduce any surcharges previously paid. A credit shall be issued and any additional use below allotment shall be reduced to zero. At that time a new water restriction period will begin.

Sec. 17.7 Income

Upon implementation of a water conservation stage, which will result in a reduced quantity of water sold, the water rates and/or meter availability fees may be adjusted to provide sufficient income to provide a balanced budget.

Sec. 17.8 Misdemeanor

As provided in Water Code Section 377, any violation of these Rules and Regulations is a misdemeanor. Upon conviction thereof such person shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or by fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by both. In addition to any other remedies, which the District may have for the enforcement of these Rules and Regulations, service of water shall be discontinued or appropriately limited to any customer who willfully uses water in violation of any provision hereof.

Sec. 17.9 Appeals

Customers may apply to the District to have their water allotment increased. An increase in the allotment of five (5) HCF/two months for each permanent resident in excess of four in a single family dwelling and in excess of three in a multi-family dwelling unit may be granted. Proof of permanent residency will be required.