

# Water Shortage Contingency Plan



**Oceano Community Services District**

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## **Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of public water system (PWS) supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the Oceano Community Services District (District) hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Water Shortage Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered to be non-essential. Continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section X of the Plan.

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the District by means of email notification and hard copy and website posting of notices for the opportunity to provide public input at the District Board of Director Meeting that occurred on June 14, 2023.

## **Section III: Public Education**

The District will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of presentations at Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts, email notifications emergency mailers, and press releases, as appropriate.

## **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the District is located within the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region and the District has provided a copy of this Plan to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOCFC&WCD) which is the wholesale agency for the District's Lopez Reservoir (Zone 3) and State Water Project water supplies and the lead agency for the IRWM Region. Additionally, the District overlies the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin. The District has provided a copy of this plan to the SLOCFC&WCD, Zone 3 and neighboring NCMA Agencies.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The General Manager, or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The General Manager, or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

## **Section VI: Application**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the District. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan may include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

## **Section VII: Definitions**

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

**Aesthetic water use:** water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

**Commercial and institutional water use:** water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as schools, hospitals, clinics, retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

**Conservation:** those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

**Customer:** any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the District.

**Domestic water use:** water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

**Deep Well Index:** the average water level of three NCMA sentry wells (24B03, 30F03, 30N02). This water level index is utilized to gauge the ability of the NCMA portion of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin to withhold potential landward migration of seawater (i.e., seawater intrusion).

**Even number address:** street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

**Industrial water use:** the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

**Landscape irrigation use:** water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, rights-of-way and medians.

**Non-essential water use:** water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting.

**Odd numbered address:** street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

## Section VIII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The General Manager or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

The triggering criteria described below are based on: an assessment of current/projected drought conditions and available water supply from the District’s water sources (i.e., State Water Project (SWP), Lopez Reservoir and Groundwater). For operating within its WSCP, the District will utilize the following water supply availability evaluation as a framework for determining which WSCP Stage is appropriate to implement:

1. If greater than 2 years of water is available in storage to meet the 3-year average historic demand, then the District enters or remains in Stage 1;
2. If the Deep Well Index is greater than 7.5 feet, then the District enters or remains in Stage 1;
3. If less than 2 years of water is available in storage to meet the 3-year average historic demand and the Deep Well Index is less than 7.5 feet, then State Water Project and Lopez Allocations will be evaluated to determine water supply availability and potential implementation of corresponding WSCP Stages.
  - a. The following table provides guidance for which combinations of SWP and Lopez Allocations would trigger which WSCP Stages.
    - i. In these calculations it is assumed that the District has 225 Acre-Feet per Year (AFY) of groundwater supply available to meet water demands and that the 3-year average water demand is 800 AFY. These assumptions will need to be re-evaluated as conditions change in the future.

		State Water Project Allocation					
		>40%	30%	20%	10%	5%	0%
Lopez Allocation	100%	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
	90%	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
	80%	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
	65%	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
	0%	Stage 1	Stage 3	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 6	Stage 6

4. The District General Manager will additionally evaluate other potential water supply availability considerations (e.g., natural disasters; water delivery interruptions, additional water sources available, hydrologic patterns and conditions, etc.) and implement appropriate WSCP Stages and/or Response Actions as appropriate.

The following table describes each water shortage stage as well as PWS-specified triggers, response actions and notification procedures.

Response Stage	Shortage Range	Trigger	Response Action	Notification Procedures
Stage 1 WATCH	Up to 10%	>More than 2 years of water available in storage; or Deep Well Index over 7.5 ft; or SWP/Lopez Allocations greater than the Stage 2 Thresholds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No reduction in total water demands from baseline.</li> </ul>	Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts
Stage 2 WARNING	Up to 20%	<Less than 2 years of water available in storage; and Deep Well Index less 7.5 ft; and SWP/Lopez Allocations corresponding to the Stage 2 triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of water which causes runoff onto adjacent properties, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, gutters, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.</li> <li>No water shall be used for cleaning driveways, patios, parking lots, sidewalks, streets, or other such uses except as found necessary by the District to protect the public health or safety.</li> <li>Using water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system, is prohibited.</li> <li>Outdoor irrigation prohibited after 10am and before 4pm.</li> <li>Applying water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.</li> <li>Unauthorized use of water from any fire hydrant is prohibited.</li> <li>Vehicles may only be washed at commercial carwashes that re-circulate water or by high-pressure/low-volume wash devices.</li> <li>Irrigation of private and public landscaping, turf areas, and gardens is permitted at even-numbered addresses only on Mondays and Thursdays, and at odd-numbered addresses only on Tuesdays and Fridays. All customers are directed to use no more water than necessary to maintain landscaping.</li> <li>Expeditious leak repair (within 48 hrs.).</li> <li>In public spaces, reduce irrigation of turf and play areas to minimum levels necessary to protect the health and safety of school children and park visitors.</li> <li>Irrigation of parks, school ground areas, and road median landscaping will not be permitted more than twice a week and only if necessary.</li> <li>Construction meters and fire hydrant meters will be monitored for efficient water use.</li> <li>Construction operations receiving water from a construction meter or water truck shall not use water unnecessarily for any purpose other than those required by regulatory agencies. Construction projects requiring watering for new landscaping materials shall adhere to the designated irrigation requirements.</li> <li>Ornamental landscape or turf that utilizes properly operating water -efficient devices which include, but are not limited to, drip/ micro irrigation systems, stream rotor sprinklers, and are operated by a functional irrigation controller, may upon verification by the District, be irrigated for up to 20 minutes per station on the days authorized for landscape irrigation.</li> <li>Require automatic shut off hoses.</li> <li>Adjust sprinklers and irrigation systems to avoid overspray, runoff, and waste.</li> <li>Expand Public Information Campaign regarding Water Shortage such as website, e- mails, presentations, business placards, school education.</li> <li>Provision of Technical Information to customers on means to promote water use efficiency.</li> <li>Decrease Line Flushing.</li> <li>Reduce System Water Loss.</li> <li>Commercial, industrial, institutional equipment must be properly maintained and in full working order.</li> <li>Encourage customers to wash only full loads when washing dishes or clothes.</li> <li>Encourage customers to report water leaks/waste to the District</li> <li>Irrigation of newly constructed home and building exteriors with potable water is prohibited unless drip or micro spray systems are used.</li> <li>Irrigation of parks, school ground areas, and road median landscaping will not be permitted more than twice a week and only if necessary.</li> <li>Watering to maintain the level of water in swimming pools shall occur only when essential.</li> </ul>	Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts, email notifications



<b>Stage 3 ACUTE</b>	Up to 30%	<Less than 2 years of water available in storage; and Deep Well Index less 7.5 ft; and SWP/Lopez Allocations corresponding to the Stage 3 triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emptying and refilling swimming pools and commercial spas is prohibited except to prevent structural damage and/ or to provide for the public health and safety.</li> <li>• Prohibit use of potable water for fire drills.</li> <li>• Require large users to audit premises and repair leaks.</li> <li>• Eliminate sprinkler overspray from driveways and sidewalks. Divide irrigation runtimes into multiple cycles to eliminate runoff water that leaves the landscaped area.</li> <li>• No new hydrant construction or temporary construction meter permits will be issued by the District.</li> <li>• No replacement water may be provided for ponds or lakes. Aeration equipment should be managed in such a way as to eliminate evaporative loss of water.</li> <li>• Tune-up irrigation system by checking for and repairing leaks and damaged sprinklers.</li> <li>• Maintenance of existing landscaping necessary for fire protection as specified by the Fire Marshal of the local fire protection agency having jurisdiction over the property to be irrigated. If fire protection landscaping is not sustainable by irrigation two (2) days per week, irrigation may be increased to not more than three (3) days per week.</li> <li>• Main flushing only on complaint basis.</li> <li>• Customers with "smart" irrigation timers or controllers are asked to set their controllers to achieve specified percentage reduction (depending on the shortage stage) of the ET rate.</li> <li>• Limits on watering duration. Watering or irrigating of lawns, landscape or other vegetated area with potable water using a landscape irrigation system or a watering device that is not continuously attended is limited to no more than 15 minutes per day per station. This subsection does not apply to landscape irrigation systems that exclusively use high efficiency irrigation equipment, very low-flow drip type irrigation systems when no emitter produces more than two gallons of water per hour, and weather-based controllers or high-efficiency stream rotor sprinklers.</li> </ul>	Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts, email notifications
<b>Stage 4 CRITICAL</b>	Up to 40%	<Less than 2 years of water available in storage; and Deep Well Index less 7.5 ft; and SWP/Lopez Allocations corresponding to the Stage 4 triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation of ornamental turf on public medians with potable water is prohibited.</li> <li>• No new potable water service connections, except under restricted conditions.</li> <li>• Expeditious leak repair (within 24 hours)</li> </ul>	Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts, email notifications emergency mailers, and press releases
<b>Stage 5 EMERGENCY</b>	Up to 50%	<Less than 2 years of water available in storage; and Deep Well Index less 7.5 ft; and SWP/Lopez Allocations corresponding to the Stage 5 triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water use for public health and safety purposes only. Customer rationing may be implemented.</li> <li>• All landscape and non-essential outdoor water use for all customers in the District's retail water service area shall be prohibited.</li> <li>• All dedicated irrigation meters will be locked off by District personnel.</li> <li>• In public spaces, eliminate irrigation of decorative landscape.</li> <li>• Decorative water features that use potable water must be drained and kept dry.</li> <li>• Previous waivers for watering during an establishment period will be revoked.</li> <li>• No new construction meters will be issued.</li> </ul>	Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts, email notifications emergency mailers, and press releases
<b>Stage 6 CATASTROPHIC WATER LOSS</b>	> 50%	<Less than 2 years of water available in storage; and Deep Well Index less 7.5 ft; and SWP/Lopez Allocations corresponding to the Stage 6 triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new connections.</li> <li>• Prohibit all outdoor water use and landscape irrigation with potable water.</li> <li>• No filling of pools or aesthetic water features.</li> <li>• No water for commercial car washes. All washing of vehicles is prohibited.</li> </ul>	Board of Director Meetings, billing inserts, email notifications emergency mailers, and press releases

## **Section IX: Notification**

The General Manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this Plan, shall determine if a water shortage condition exists and the severity of any such water shortage conditions (e.g., *1-Watch, 2-Warning, 3-Acute, 4-Critical, 5-Emergency, 6-Catastrophic Water Loss*), and shall implement the following notification procedures accordingly:

### Notification of the Public:

The General Manager, or his/her designee, shall notify the public by means of:

- Announcements at Board of Director Meetings
- Billing Inserts
- Email notification
- Emergency Mailers
- Press Releases

### Additional Notification:

The General Manager, or his/ her designee, shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities, as appropriate:

### Water Suppliers:

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
Central Coast Water Authority  
City of Grover Beach  
City of Arroyo Grande  
City of Pismo Beach  
Avila Beach Community Services District  
Avila Valley Mutual Water Company  
San Miguelito Mutual Water Company  
County Service Area 12  
Port San Luis Harbor District

### Public Agencies:

County of San Luis Obispo  
Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group  
Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments  
South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District  
California Department of Water Resources (DWR)  
California State Library

## **Section X: Enforcement**

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the District for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by General Manager, or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.
- (b) Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person is in repeated violation of this Plan, the General Manager upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge, and any other costs incurred by the District in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be given by the General Manager that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect.
- (c) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the District, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The General Manager, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- (b) Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Plan shall file a petition for variance with the District within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the General Manager, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Plan.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.