

With the glory of summer upon us, the warming pattern of this past winter is projected to continue well into the coming fall. As we head into summer, we know that you will increase your water consumption by 60%, July through September. Irrigation practices drive this summer demand. Smart watering and gardening strategies will lessen the seasonal burden to our system. This is where your conservation efforts will be most effective; the evolution of gardening and lawn care. Thankfully, our source water availability is expected to remain at levels consistent with previous summers. With that in mind, we wanted to note our current understanding of the summer supply outlook, provide details of our emergency water use restriction policy and mention water quality concerns as well. Our view is that a significant decline of summer usage will reduce the need for future infrastructure investments and assure our long term viability. Your approach to conservation is the influential factor. Please contact us for assistance adopting effective water conservation strategies. There is no end to the info on the web, such as www.epa.gov/watersense and www.h2ouse.org to get started.

Have a great summer.

SUPPLY OUTLOOK SUMMER 2015

Gov Jay Inslee on May 15, 2015, declared a statewide drought emergency. The declaration comes after the governor's Emergency Water Executive Committee determined that 48 of 62 watersheds in Washington have water supplies of 75 percent of normal or below and water users are experiencing hardships from water shortages or are expected to experience hardships. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/>

The last statewide drought was in 2005; both declarations a function of the lack of snowpack over the previous winter. Precipitation levels in our region were considered 'normal' this winter, only presenting as rain, not snow. For an Island such as ours (sole source aquifer), we are dependent on rainfall for our water supply, not snow. Regardless, hot dry summers will diminish stream flows and increase customer demand. Water rights require us to keep minimum flows in Beall Creek, our primary

source. Typically, when pumping for production purposes, we leave 2 -3 times the required minimum. We monitor our streams flow continuously and make adjustments as needed. Stream flows will be lowest by summers end but the minimums observed have thus far been more than adequate to serve our customers.

Water levels in our groundwater sources have remained consistent and reliable. We monitor levels continuously and conduct a yearly 'aquifer recharge test' on our groundwater sources. We have not noted any change in our static water levels to date. Our wells can provide roughly 40% of the daily summer demand.

This is the situation today; we will always be actively monitoring our resilience. There is little historical reference for extended dry seasons carrying over multiple summers, and this is a cause for concern. Conditions may change but our approach to conservation should remain consistent.

EMERGENCY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS POLICY

When the District's water supply usage exceeds the rate of resupply the Board may declare whether such condition constitutes a minor emergency, a moderate emergency, or a severe emergency*.

Minor Emergency:

- Restricted watering of lawns, not to include the grass areas of public use athletic and physical education fields
- No washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, or other impervious surfaced areas
- No washing of any building or structure except that high pressure, low water volume washers may be used
- No washing of any motor vehicle, boat, travel trailer other than for safety cleaning of windows
- No tap water served to customers at restaurants unless requested by the customer to whom it is provided
- No use of water for fire department drills or burn house exercises
- Bulk water restrictions at the Board's discretion

Moderate Emergency:

- No watering of lawns, including the grass areas of public use athletic and physical education fields
- No washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, or other impervious surface areas
- No washing of any building or structure
- No washing of any motor vehicle, boat, travel trailer other than for safety cleaning of windows
- No tap water served to customers at restaurants unless requested by the customer to whom it is provided
- No use of water for fire department drills or burn house exercises
- No use of water to fill any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or spas
- No use of water for operating private or public fountains or ponds for aesthetic or scenic uses
- Bulk water restrictions at the Board's discretion

Severe Emergency:

- All noted restrictions in #2
- Shrubs, flowers and tree seedlings and vegetable gardens may only be hand watered or watered by manually initiated, timer controlled irrigation systems.

Exemptions:

Any customer contending that the mandatory water restrictions contained in this policy constitute a public or personal health or safety hazard may apply for an exemption from or modification of the provisions of this policy by application to the Board of Commissioners. For good cause shown, the Board may modify any mandatory water use restriction applicable to such customer or exempt the customer from the subject restriction.

The District will notify customers of Emergency Conditions through the use of reader boards at strategic locations on the Island, and when possible, through written communication through mailings or the newspaper.

Enforcement during Emergency Conditions:

1. First Violations: Violators of Emergency Conditions will be given written notice of warning.
2. Fines for Second and additional violations: Upon a second and additional violations, the customer shall be fined as described in our rates and fees table.

Any customer notified of a violation shall pay such fine. Fines will be included in the customer's next regular billing for water service by the District.

Water Flow Restrictions and Water Shut-off: Upon a third or additional violation, the customer's water flow may be restricted by a mechanical device to provide water only in quantities consistent with health and safety, or water service to such customer may be disconnected as determined by the Board of Commissioners.

SAFE GARDENING PRACTICES

Gardening may include chemical controls to limit undesirable elements from invading your turf. There is inherent risk when using chemicals in your garden. These risks translate into water quality and wildlife issues over which there is little control. With the overwhelming choice of products, it is difficult to make an informed decision. Ingredients such as 2,4 D are known to be harmful to Pacific salmon, and can make it into streams and Puget Sound. Thankfully, a few dedicated

Islanders have been developing the *Vashon-Maury Island Purchasing Guide* to inform us of a products' risk. Local retailers have embraced displaying the guides with some committing to remove products with the highest potential for harm. Look for the guides before purchasing chemicals for your garden. Also, the Grow Smart Grow Safe Program is an exceptional regional resource. www.growsmartgrowsafe.org

Contact Us for more Info:

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* Water District 19 has never issued an Emergency Water Use Restriction Declaration.