

Mandated Water Use Restrictions effective June 1st

Following the Executive Order by Governor Brown on April 1st calling for a mandatory statewide water use reduction of 25%, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released draft regulations proposing that Cities on the Peninsula including the City of Palos Verdes Estates (City) reduce water use by 36% as of June 1, 2015 and reevaluate the percentage reduction in February 2016. In order to achieve state-mandated water use restrictions imposed by the drought, CalWater has filed “Schedule 14.1: Water Shortage Contingency Plan” with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Schedule 14.1 provides household and business water budgets, waste penalties, and enforcement measures to reduce water use in its districts. The following measures will be mandated to all residents and businesses in this City starting **Monday, June 1st**:

Water Budgets

- All, consumers, both residential and business, will be given an **individualized** water budget, that is the amount of water they may use each month without incurring higher costs.
- The water budget will be based on the units of water (*CCF) that an individual customer used in 2013. * *CCF* (centum cubic feet) equates to 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons of water. The amount of water budgeted for each customer for the following month will appear on the water bill beginning with their full June bill. A minimum water budget is established for single-family residential customers. That means these customers’ budgets will not be below a specified threshold, regardless of 2013 water use.
- A drought surcharge will be applied to each CCF used above a customer’s allotted budget that month. The surcharge will be \$9.54 per unit (CCF) exceeded.

Water Budget Appeals

A customer can file an appeal to have his or her monthly water budget increased (i.e. for health and safety reasons, business or economic needs, additional guests at home and significant long-term water savings already achieved. Appeal procedures will be available at www.calwater.com and mailed to customers by June 1st. A dedicated CalWater Call Center will also be activated.

Water Banking

Customers will be able to bank unused units of water from their monthly water budget for use in future months. Should a customer exceed their monthly budget, any banked units of water will be applied to the overage prior to any surcharge being assessed. Banked units are available for future months only.

Water Use Restrictions

- Landscape irrigation will be limited to no more than three days per week.
- Do not apply water to outdoor landscape that causes any type of run-off.
- Do not use a hose to wash your motor vehicle unless it is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Do not apply water to any hardscape (driveway/walkway).

- Do not use water fountains except where water is part of a recirculating system.
- Do not water your landscape during and within 48 hours after measureable rainfall.
- Do not fill or re-fill residential swimming pools or spas, except to maintain required operating levels or after structural repairs.
- Once CalWater notifies you of a water leak on your property, you have five business days to repair the leak.
- Eating and drinking establishments can only serve drinking water upon request.

Water Waste Violations

The following will be CalWaters enforcement procedures:

- 1. First Reported Violation** – Written notice of violation will be given plus authority to install real-time water measurement device on the customer’s meter, at the customer’s expense.
- 2. Second Reported Violation** – A second written notice will be given plus a \$50 surcharge fee.
- 3. Third Reported Violation** - A third written notice will be given plus a \$50 surcharge fee.
- 4. Fourth Reported Violation** – A fourth written notice will be given plus authorization to install a flow-restricting device on the violator’s service line.
Note: A “flow-restricting device” means valves, orifices, or other devices that reduce the flow of potable water through a service line, which are capable of passing a minimum of 3 CCF per person, per month, based upon the U.S. Census calculation of the average number of people in a household in the area.
- 5. Subsequent Violations** – Authorization to discontinue water service.
- 6. Egregious Violations** – Written notice given plus authorization to install a flow-restricting device if violation is not corrected.

CalWater will use its resources to educate its customers before having to issue violations or fines. The City of Palos Verdes Estates does not regulate the use of water nor enforce the State’s conservation requirements; compliance with water conservation is the responsibility of CalWater. The City will support CalWater’s efforts through the dissemination of information (www.pvestates.org), and of course, comply with conservation requirements. There is substantial information available on CalWater’s website (www.calwater.com) for conservation strategies and available rebates. For further questions or concerns, call CalWater at (310) 257-1400.

Helpful Resources

The Metropolitan Water District is offering rebates for installing weather-based irrigation controllers, rotating sprinkler nozzles, soil moisture sensors and for replacing grass with drought-tolerant plants. In addition, rebates are also offered for purchasing high-efficiency clothes washing machines and toilets.

The following websites offer information on rebates and water conservation:

- www.saveourwater.com
- www.bewaterwise.com

www.socalwatersmart.com
www.calwater.com/conservation/drought/
www.calwater.com/rebates
www.calwater.com/nozzles
www.calwater.com/eval
www.sbesc.com
www.westbasin.org

For the latest information on **California's Historic Drought Conditions**, please visit: <http://ca.gov/drought>.