

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FLORIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

NOTE THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 5:00 PM

**9257 Elk Grove Blvd.
Elk Grove, CA 95624**

Public Comment – Please complete a Request to Speak Form if you wish to address the Board. Members of the audience may comment on matters that are not included on the agenda. Each person will be allowed three (3) minutes, or less if a large number of requests are received on a particular subject. No action may be taken on a matter raised under "Public Comment" until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Items listed on the agenda will be opened for public comment as they are considered by the Board of Directors.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan Action Level – Stage 2 Plus

Public Comment

Recommended Action: Approve a motion adopting the proposed Stage 2 Plus action level as part of the Elk Grove Water District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and approve additional conservation actions to reach a 28 percent reduction.

Adjourn to the Regular FRCD Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at 9257 Elk Grove Blvd.

May 13, 2015

TO: Chairman and Directors of the Florin Resource Conservation District

FROM: Mark J. Madison, General Manager

SUBJECT: **WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN ACTION LEVEL - STAGE 2 PLUS**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors of the Florin Resource Conservation District approve a motion adopting the proposed Stage 2 Plus action level as part of the Elk Grove Water District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and approve additional conservation actions to reach a 28 percent reduction.

Summary

On May 5, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted emergency regulations requiring an immediate statewide reduction of potable water use by 25 percent. Each urban water supplier has been assigned a tier with a conservation standard ranging between four percent and 36 percent. The Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) has been assigned a 28 percent reduction requirement, an increase from the previous requirement of 20 percent.

The District achieved an 18.15% reduction in 2014, which was slightly below the statewide goal of 20%. Recently, the EGWD elevated our action level to Stage 2 action level, however this stage is not designed to achieve the new requirement of 28%. By this action, the Board would approve a Stage 2 Plus action level (attached), which is designed to compensate for our 2014 shortfall and achieve a new water use reduction of 28%, in compliance with the new SWRCB requirements. This action, if approved, would go into effect as of May 18, 2015.

DISCUSSION

Background

In July, 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board issued emergency regulations for statewide water conservation, making certain conservation actions mandatory. In

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response, the Elk Grove Water District (District) adopted Ordinance 07-23-14-02, implementing a Stage 1 – Water Alert.

For the 2014 calendar year, the District achieved an 18.15% reduction in water use, compared to 2013, and this fell short of the statewide goal of 20% and the designed 20% objective of Stage 1.

Present Situation

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order calling for expedited actions by State agencies to increase conservation measures further. One of these orders was that the SWRCB impose restrictions to achieve a 25% reduction in potable water use statewide through February of 2016. The SWRCB subsequently released the proposed restrictions in a document referred to as the Draft Framework. The Draft Framework identified the EGWD to have a new water use reduction goal of 36%, but this was later revised and reduced to 28%.

In April, after the SWRCB released the Draft Framework, General Manager Mark Madison elevated the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan to Stage 2 – Water Warning, mandating a reduction in use by 25 percent. This Stage, however, will not achieve the new water use reduction as ordered by the SWRCB.

On May 5, 2015, the SWRCB adopted the final requirements imposed on urban water suppliers, including the Elk Grove Water District. This plan, which goes into effect on June 1, continues to require the EGWD to achieve a 28% water use reduction.

The EGWD Water Shortage Contingency Plan's Stage 3 – Water Crisis is designed to achieve a 50% water use reduction, and includes many restrictions unnecessary at this time. For this reason, staff proposes that Stage 2 be amended, as a Stage 2 Plus, to include selected additional restrictions designed to meeting the new 28% requirement. The Stage 2 Plus action level is also designed to address the shortfall that EGWD did not attain in Stage 1 and it concentrates on three major areas. These areas include additional requirements, public outreach, and enforcement.

Additional Requirements

The proposed additional requirements included in the Stage 2 Plus include:

- **A reduction in service pressure to achieve an average system-wide pressure of 50 pounds per square inch (psi).**

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To achieve this requirement, staff will reduce the average system-wide service pressure by 8 psi. This reduction is expected to reduce the District's water usage by 7%.

Several water providers in the Sacramento area, including Sacramento County Water Agency, have already taken steps to reduce water pressure slightly. Small decreases in water pressure will be generally unnoticed by customers and will provide reduction in water use without additional demands upon those customers.

- **Amending irrigation restrictions to include all properties, including those not previously identified in earlier emergency regulations. This includes institutions and industries.**

Preliminary research indicates that certain industrial and institutional customers are falling well short of meeting the water use reductions ordered by the Governor. Restricting these customers to irrigations of no more than two days per week is expected to decrease water use District-wide by approximately 3%.

- **Prohibition of irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians.**
This requirement is contained in the new order by the SWRCB. The water savings yielded by this requirement is unknown, but expected to be minimal.
- **Prohibition of irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings not in accordance with emergency regulations or other requirements established by the Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.**

This requirement is contained in the new order by the SWRCB. The water savings yielded by this requirement is unknown, but expected to be minimal.

Public Outreach

Additional public outreach items will include:

- As previously mentioned, certain industrial and institutional customers are falling well short of meeting the water use reductions ordered by the Governor. In fact, the District's water use data shows that the water use by a number of industrial and institutional customers significantly increased in the early months of 2015

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compared to the same months in 2013. Staff proposes to target these customers with public outreach materials and personal contacts, further educating them on the new requirements imposed by the State and the EGWD.

- Staff will implement another outreach campaign to restaurants including customized letter and District-prepared tent cards.
- A public outreach firm will be retained to assist in developing a more fully populated customer database, including e-mail addresses, to issue periodic e-mail notices keeping them more current on the status of the District's progress in meeting our goals.
- An interactive voice recognition system (IVR) will be implemented which will include a hotline selection for customers to obtain current drought-related information, such as whether or not a rainfall event is considered "measurable."
- A trailer mounted message sign will be rented for a six-month period and placed at the District Administration office (or other locations), which can be programmed to convey drought messages to the public.
- The EGWD will partner with the City of Elk Grove and the Cosumnes CSD to incorporate drought information into their periodic publications, focusing on water conservation tips that all customers may use.

Enforcement

Enforcement of drought regulations continues and will be further increased by the District without necessity of additional hiring at this time. Staff proposes to assign one individual to a conduct patrols on a modified work schedule, from 4 AM until 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. Early morning patrols are desired for conservation enforcement as this is when the majority of customers irrigate their landscapes. Because this employee has done some conservation work for the District before, training will be minimal and patrols can begin almost as soon as the employee becomes available. Other staff will patrol during other hours as part of their normal activities, but this activity will be secondary to their normal duties.

The City of Elk Grove has indicated that they will continue to assist and cooperate with the District in its enforcement of water conservation regulations. The City's Code Enforcement Officer will continue to provide education and assistance.

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The City of Elk Grove may also be used as a third party to conduct appeals if regulation violations are challenged. An appeals process is mostly necessary when a monetary penalty is part of the violation process. Staff is working with the City and legal counsel to further develop that process.

Additional Potential Actions and Activities

There are a number of additional actions and activities that could be employed to achieve further water use reductions, however staff is not recommending these at this time. These actions include:

- Rebate programs, such as drought resistant landscaping, toilet replacements, and swimming pool covers
- Restrictions on new connections
- Water allotments
- Rate surcharges or fines for excessive use

Reporting

Monthly reporting to the SWRCB has been slightly modified by the new regulations. The monthly report must include:

- The amount of potable water produced, including water provided by a wholesaler in the preceding calendar month
- A comparison of that amount to the amount produced in the same calendar month in 2013
- The population served
- The percentage of water produced that is used for the residential sector
- Descriptive statistics on water conservation compliance and enforcement efforts
- The number of days that outdoor irrigation is allowed
- Monthly commercial, industrial and institutional sector use
- Estimated gallons of water per person per day used by residential customers

STRATEGIC PLAN CONFORMITY

Compliance with State regulations is in conformity with the District's Business Practice goals of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan.

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The rental cost for a trailer mounted sign is estimated to cost approximately \$480 per week, so a 6-month rental would be approximately \$12,500. There will be costs incurred if a public outreach firm is retained to assist with the public outreach measures as described above. The cost for these services, however, is not yet known. There will be no additional cost for the interactive voice recognition system since the District is already in the process of implementing this system.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK J. MADISON
GENERAL MANAGER

Attachment

ELK GROVE WATER DISTRICT

Water Shortage Contingency Plan – Stages of Action

STAGE 2 PLUS - EXTREME WATER WARNING

Stage 2 Plus is triggered in the event that the District’s supply or distribution system will not be able to meet all the water demands of its customers under Stage 2 or by order of the State of California due to emergency drought regulations. In addition to the measures implemented during normal water supply and Stage 2, including a restriction on irrigations to no more 2 days a week, customers are notified of the Stage 2 Plus action stage and a the District’s requirement to reduce water usage by 28%.

MANDATORY MEASURES

System Pressure – EGWD system pressure will be reduced to an average system-wide pressure of 50 pounds per square inch

Irrigation for all properties is limited to the following:

Addresses ending in	Watering Days
ODD numbers (1,3,5,7,9)	Tuesday and Friday
EVEN numbers (0,2,4,6,8)	Monday and Thursday

No irrigation from 10 AM to 8 PM

No irrigation during or up to 48 hours after measurable rainfall

No irrigation runoff permitted. Overwatering is prohibited

No irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians

No irrigation with potable water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development

No use of a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle

No washing down driveways and sidewalks

No use of potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated

Water shall be served only upon request in eating or drinking establishments

Operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily

NOTE: Exceptions are made for health and safety circumstances.

PENALTIES FOR WATER WASTE

First violation: Customer is notified of violation

Second violation: Written warning is sent to customer

Third violation: \$200 fine and customer is scheduled for mandatory water audit

Fourth violation: \$500 fine and a flow restriction device is installed

Fifth violation: \$500 fine and the water service is shut off. Connection fee assessed to reactivate water service