



News Release

Contact: Raul Mendez, City Manager

September 25, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Hughson Adopts Water Conservation Ordinance and Enacts Emergency Measures as Required by State of California Due to Drought Conditions

Background

The State Water Resources Control Board recently issued regulations regarding urban water use restrictions. While the State Board does not regulate groundwater, which is the sole source of water for the City of Hughson, the State's emergency regulations extend to all urban water suppliers regardless of the source of water.

On July 21, 2014, the Hughson City Council took affirmative steps to strengthen the City's water conservation measures by formally incorporating (and expanding) those previously established by Council Resolution into the Hughson Municipal Code Title 13 Chapter 13.04.340. **Subsequently, the City Council adopted the Water Conservation Ordinance that became effective on August 25, 2014 and exercised its authority, on September 8, 2014, per the new Ordinance, declaring a water shortage emergency for the immediate protection of health and safety, as required by State Law. The water shortage emergency will remain in place until the City Council lifts the declaration through future action when drought conditions improve.**

The Ordinance amended Hughson Municipal Code Section 13.08.340 by adding a majority of the language concerning water conservation previously adopted in 2007 by Council Resolution, directly into the Municipal Code.

Water Ordinance in Summary

- *Waste of Water Prohibited.* No customer shall knowingly permit leaks or waste of water.
- *Outdoor Use of Potable Water.* In accordance with the other restrictions identified herein, the following are the requirements and restrictions set for outdoor watering:
 - Irrigation of all exterior landscaping including, but not limited to, turf areas, open ground, crops, trees, grass, lawn, ground cover, shrubbery, or decorative plantings using an irrigation system, hose, or outdoor potable water faucet shall be allowed only three days a week as follows:
 - Odd-number addresses - Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon.
 - Even-numbered addresses - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon.
 - Watering by hand (with cans, wands, hand-held hoses) is allowed on days as per address.
 - Vehicle, equipment or boat washing, is permitted on days and times as per address as set forth and providing a hand-held, automatic shut-off nozzle hose and bucket is used, and minimal runoff occurs, and is limited to one (1) washing per week.

- Outdoor irrigation of vehicle, equipment or boat washing between the hours of 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m., is PROHIBITED at any time.
- Commercial and Fleet Vehicle Washing facilities are exempt from the preceding restrictions.
- *Water Using Equipment and Devices.*
 - All evaporative coolers shall be equipped with operating recirculation pumps.
 - Decorative fountains, ponds, and other water displays shall be equipped with operating recirculation pumps, and shall not be operated during any water rationing emergency.
 - Automatic shut-off devices, such as a hose sprayer, shall be required on all handheld water devices.
- *Maintenance of Water Using Devices.*
 - All irrigation systems, irrigation controllers, hoses, sprinklers, sprinkler heads, fountains, pools, connections, plumbing, and other water conveyance devices shall be maintained in good condition so as to prevent leakage, or unscheduled or un-permitted discharges of water or the unnecessary or excessive consumption of water.
 - All irrigation systems, controllers, sprinklers, sprinkler heads shall be properly designed, maintained, adjusted as frequently and completely as necessary to prevent the run-off of water beyond turf and landscaped areas, and to prevent run-off onto driveways, walkways, sidewalks, paths, curbs, gutters, streets, vehicles, buildings, fences, or adjacent properties.
 - All repairs necessary to comply with these provisions shall be completed within 24 hours after notification by the City of a violation.

In addition, the emergency restrictions have been revised to contain the State Board’s regulations as a separate subsection for ease of amendment in the future should the State Board issue revised or further regulations. **The emergency restrictions further limit the times for irrigation to between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.**

Education and Implementation

In order to ensure that residents are aware of the water shortage emergency and stricter restrictions, City staff will provide notification via the utility billing, press release, website, Facebook, etc. Additional educational outreach will be conducted at City Hall, out in the field and during other opportunities to interact with residents such as the upcoming Hughson Harvest Festival. City staff will also be developing procedures for variances and enforcement in the upcoming weeks and that information will also be made available.

An “emergency watering schedule” has been prepared (below) by City staff and will be made available for ease of compliance by residents. Although the emergency restrictions are in place, City staff will use the upcoming fall/winter season to educate residents gradually on the stricter restrictions to ensure that they clearly know what is allowable. During this time, City staff will also develop additional elements of the program for implementation. A concerted effort by the City, partners and residents will be needed to implement water conservation practices that comply with State and local restrictions based on conditions.

More Information

The Hughson City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Meetings of the Hughson City Council are held at City Hall located at 7018 Pine Street, Hughson, CA. For more information, please visit the City of Hughson website at www.hughson.org or call 209.883.4054.

NEW WATERING SCHEDULE for CITY of HUGHSON RESIDENTS

Due to Emergency Declaration by City Council on September 9, 2014

ODD numbered addresses end in **1,3,5,7,9**

EVEN numbered addresses end in **0,2,4,6,8**

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Midnight to 8 AM	If your address is ODD	Watering Prohibited	If your address is EVEN	If your address is ODD	If your address is EVEN	If your address is ODD	If your address is EVEN
8 AM to 7 PM	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited
7 PM to 11:59 PM	If your address is ODD	Watering Prohibited	If your address is EVEN	If your address is ODD	If your address is EVEN	If your address is ODD	If your address is EVEN