

Water Shortage

Contingency Plan

Murrieta Service Area



Securing Your Water Supply

Helping our community prepare for water shortages

With drought and emergency situations continuously a threat to our water supply, Western Municipal Water District has had a Water Shortage Contingency Plan in place since 2009 to strategically reduce water consumption in severe circumstances. Western is updating the Plan as a result of the increasingly serious drought conditions and to better coordinate with the 2011 water budget rate program.

Lake Oroville

Public Hearing

Feb. 18, 2015 • 6 p.m. • Western Municipal Water District
14205 Meridian Pkwy, Riverside • wmwd.com

Water Shortage Contingency Plan



Securing Your Water Supply

The proposed Water Shortage Contingency Plan's more restrictive stages would ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED IF NEEDED in continual or extreme drought or drastic emergency conditions.

Current customer rates/water bills are not impacted or changed by updating the plan.

Because our local water supplies are insufficient to meet demand, Western Municipal Water District (Western) must purchase and import water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Drought and water shortages continuously threaten both our local and imported water supplies. In 2009, Western adopted a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to strategically reduce water consumption and meet the growing demands for water within our service territory.

Western is now proposing to update its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan). Under the proposed Plan, Western will be authorized to declare water shortage "Stages." Under each Stage, increasingly greater restrictions on water use will be implemented to address the specific water shortage conditions impacting our water supplies. These changes to the Plan will allow our customers to better manage their outdoor water use and give the District the ability to better manage scarce water supplies. The proposed Plan's more restrictive stages (Stages 3 a, b, c; 4 a, b, c and 5 a, b, c) will ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED IF needed in continual or extreme drought or drastic emergency conditions. As described below during these more restrictive Stages, certain water rates within Western's existing lower tiers will be eliminated and customers will be required to pay the rates within the higher tiers if they exceed their water budgets. In the final Stages, outdoor water budgets and commercial water budgets will be reduced. In addition to adjusting individual water budgets during declared shortages, warning letters, notices of violation, and if necessary, daily fines for repeat violations of defined water use restrictions and water waste may be levied against customers that ignore warning and notices.

Proposed Water Shortage Stages

Stage 1: Water Supply Watch – Permanent mandatory prohibitions continually in effect during all stages in addition to the specific stage requirements. Identical to current plan.

Stage 2: Water Supply Alert – Affect a moderate reduction through voluntary actions, enhanced outreach and customer support programs.

Stage 3: Mandatory Waste Reduction – Reduce water consumption by 5% to 15%.

Stage 3a: Eliminate new adjustments to outdoor water budgets.

Stage 3b: Eliminate Billing Tier 4.

(All water use in excess of 126% of a customer's budget will be charged at the Tier 5 rate.)

Stage 3c: Eliminate Billing Tier 3.

(All water use in excess of 100% of a customer's budget will be charged at the Tier 5 rate.)

Stage 4: Mandatory Outdoor Reduction – Reduce water system consumption by 16% to 50% (all actions in previous stages stay in force).

Stage 4a: Reduce all landscape/outdoor water budgets by 10%.

Request voluntary reduction in commercial water use.

Stage 4b: Reduce all landscape/outdoor budget by 40%.

Reduce all commercial water budgets by 15%.

No new meters (construction or service).

Stage 4c: Reduce all landscape/outdoor water budgets by 65%.

Reduce all commercial water budgets by 30%.

Stage 5: Catastrophic Loss (Indoor Reduction) – Significantly reduce water consumption to protect public health, safety and fire flow. All outdoor water use is prohibited through these sub-Stages:

Stage 5a: Commercial water budget reduced 30%.

Residential indoor water budgets reduced by 10%.

54 gallons per person per day for indoor water use.

Stage 5b: Reduce indoor residential water budgets by 15%.

51 gallons per person per day for indoor water use.

Stage 5c: Reduce indoor residential water budgets by 20%.

48 gallons per person per day for indoor water use.