



Stage II Water Shortage Emergency Frequently Asked Questions:

For a complete list of restrictions and specific exceptions visit the District website at www.goletawater.com.

How much do I need to reduce my water use to comply with the Stage II Water Shortage?

The District has established mandatory water use restrictions to help achieve a 25% district-wide reduction in water usage to extend water supplies. Since approximately one half of single family residential water use is for outdoor landscape irrigation, the easiest way to achieve significant savings is by reducing your outdoor irrigation by 25-50%.

When will the Stage II Water Shortage take effect?

The District Board of Directors declared a Stage II Water Shortage Emergency on September 9, 2014, effective immediately.

What triggers a Stage II Water Shortage?

According to the District's adopted Drought Preparedness Water Shortage Contingency Plan, a Stage II Water Shortage Emergency is declared when the District's water supply is 75-85% of normal over the next twelve months, or when the District water supply is insufficient to provide 75% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. Current District water supply modeling indicates that water supply for the next 12 months will be approximately 85% of normal beginning in September 2014, triggering the Stage II Water Shortage. Furthermore, declaration of a Stage II Water Shortage is necessary to comply with recently adopted State Emergency Regulations that places mandatory restrictions on outdoor watering. The District entered the drought with a healthy groundwater basin, stored State Water supplies, a full allocation of water from Lake Cachuma, and consistent recycled water use to offset potable water use. However, even with careful management the District is making conservative projections and has declared a Stage II with mandatory water use restrictions to help add reliability to and extend supplies even more.

How is outdoor watering affected by the Stage II Water Shortage?

Hoses used for any purpose must be equipped with a shut-off nozzle. Outdoor landscape irrigation is limited to no more than two times per week during early morning or late evening hours for a maximum of 2 hours per area. Manual watering is allowed between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on no more than two days per week. Residential properties using fixed (i.e. installed sprinkler systems) may water Wednesdays and Saturdays, before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Commercial and institutional properties using fixed irrigation systems may water Tuesdays and Fridays, before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. In addition, water waste is prohibited, including irrigating in a manner that results in runoff off of the property, and allowing water to escape from plumbing breaks for more than 48 hours.

What about restrictions on using a hose to wash surfaces?

Hoses used for any purpose must be equipped with a shut-off nozzle. Direct application of water to sidewalks, pavements, open ground, or other hard surfaced area, as well as washing buildings, dwellings or other structures, is generally prohibited. Vehicles and boats may only be washed at commercial car washing facilities or with a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle. For a list of general exceptions to the restrictions, visit www.goletawater.com.

What do I need to tell my landscaper?

Make sure that your landscaper is aware the Goleta Water District declared a Stage II Water Shortage and is enforcing mandatory outdoor watering restrictions. As of September 9, 2014 new restrictions are in place regarding when and how often outdoor irrigation can occur (see above), a shut-off nozzle needs to be used on hoses, and direct washing of pavement, open ground and hard surfaces is generally prohibited. Additionally, your landscaper must make sure that when they irrigate no water runs onto the pavement or sidewalk. If you use a fixed irrigation system or automatic timers, now would be a good time to check for leaks, reprogram the system to comply with new watering restrictions, and make any repairs. Water features such as fountains can only be used on residential properties, or if they are home to aquatic life, and must recirculate. Tips to share with your landscaper include: add a 3-inch layer of mulch or wood chips in gardens and over tree root zones; reduce the watering schedule by half; save trees by deep watering every few weeks; and consider replacing lawn with native or drought tolerant ground covers. Your landscaper can find tips and resources for maintaining landscaping during drought on the District website (www.goletawater.com) or by contacting the District at 964-6761, or in person at 4699 Hollister Avenue in Goleta.

How does the Stage II Water Shortage affect outdoor water features and fountains?

Use of water in outdoor fountains, reflection ponds, and decorative water features is prohibited unless located on a residential property or home to aquatic life as of September 9, 2014. The State Emergency Regulations also require that all fountains recirculate water.

What about restrictions for hotels and motels?

Hotels, motels, and other lodging are encouraged to post water shortage notices and water conservation tips, and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by the patron. The District has sign templates and other resources available for hotel use.

How will restaurants be affected?

Restaurants are prohibited from serving water unless requested by the patron.

What about restrictions on recreation?

Gyms, athletic clubs, public pools, and other similar establishments are encouraged to post water shortage notices at their facilities and promote shortened showers. Residents are encouraged to use pool covers, which reduce water loss associated with evaporation. Rebates for pool covers will be available while supplies last.

How will the Stage II Water Shortage impact commercial growers and nurseries?

Agricultural customers using water to irrigate commercial crops, including nurseries, are generally exempt from the irrigation restrictions, but are strongly encouraged to avoid watering during daylight hours and utilize efficient irrigation systems. Water conservation tips for agricultural customers are provided on the District website at www.goletawater.com.

Will I be fined?

Repeated violations will be penalized with fines ranging from \$100 up to \$500. However, the District is focusing on educating customers about the new Stage II Water Shortage Restrictions and initial infractions will receive a warning and written notice so that the customer can correct the problem. After a warning and written notice a \$100 fine will be issued, with repeat violations receiving escalating fines.

What if I witness a violation or a water theft?

The District is requesting the help of the public in reporting violations of Stage II restrictions, instances of water waste, and suspected cases of water theft. Members of the public who witness unauthorized use of water are encouraged to contact the District immediately at [\(805\)964-6761](tel:8059646761) with the date, time, and location (address) of the incident. Photos are encouraged and will help the District identify the individual and impose penalties.

How does the District’s Stage II Water Shortage fit with recently imposed State Regulations?

The mandatory restrictions are consistent with the District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan and the emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on July 15.

I’m already using less water. How can I save more?

Since over one half of all water used in the Goleta Valley is attributable to outdoor usage, the easiest way to reduce usage is to target outdoor water use, such as reduced landscape irrigation. While a Stage II declaration establishes mandatory water use restrictions and prohibitions, the District is offering ways to help the community learn more about how they can conserve. Tips, resources and information are provided online at www.goletawater.com, or by visiting our regional partner www.WaterWiseSB.org.

How is Goleta Water District helping customers conserve?

In the coming months the District will launch several water conservation incentive and rebate programs in connection with a Stage II declaration, including rebates for water wise landscape installation, high efficiency toilets, and other water efficient activities. Customers are encouraged to consult the District for additional information on the programs at (805)879-4643. Water saving tips are available on our website www.goletawater.com.