



Stage III Water Shortage Emergency Frequently Asked Questions:

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

What are the new restrictions under a Stage III Declaration?

Assigned watering times have been further restricted, with outdoor landscape irrigation limited to no more than two times per week. No irrigation is allowed for 48 hours after it rains.

- Manual watering is restricted to *before* 8 am and *after* 8 pm no more than two days per week.
- Fixed irrigation (i.e. installed) sprinkler systems are limited to *before* 6 am or *after* 8 pm, Wednesday and/or Saturday for residential customers, Tuesday and/or Friday for commercial customers.

Public recreation, athletic fields, and golf courses may not water more than 2 days a week *before* 6 am or *after* 6 pm. Agricultural customers using overhead spray sprinklers outdoors are restricted to *before* 10 am or *after* 4 pm.

When will the Stage III Water Shortage take effect?

The District Board of Directors declared a Stage III Water Shortage Emergency on May 12, 2015, effective immediately.

Why is a Stage III Declaration necessary?

The Goleta Valley is facing the worst drought in our history. For the first time the District is expecting to receive a zero allocation from Lake Cachuma. This means that starting in October we will not be receiving our normal entitlement of water from Lake Cachuma, which is traditionally the primary source of water for the community. Saving water now is critical to ensuring adequate supplies for human health and public safety.

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

The District is targeting community wide water savings of 35%. There is no set amount by which individual customers must reduce their use. The daily usage of Goleta Water District customers is among the lowest in the state, so some customers who only use water for indoor use may not be able to reduce much more. The easiest place to save water is outdoors as watering your yard typically accounts for up to 50% of water use. By reducing or eliminating outdoor watering you can save hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water a month. By comparison, switching from a 20 minute to a 5 minute shower will save an estimated 37 gallons.

What triggers a Stage III Water Shortage?

According to the District's adopted Drought Preparedness Water Shortage Contingency Plan, a Stage III Water Shortage Emergency is declared when the District's water supply is 65-75% of normal over the next twelve months, or when the District water supply is insufficient to provide 65% of normal deliveries for the next twenty-four months.

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

Hoses 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 two hours per area. Manual watering is allowed between 8:00 pm and 8:00 am on no more than two days per week. Residential properties using fixed (i.e. installed sprinkler systems) may water Wednesdays and Saturdays, *before* 6 am or *after* 8 pm. Commercial and institutional properties using fixed irrigation systems may water Tuesdays and Fridays, *before* 6 am or *after* 8 pm. Public recreation, athletic fields, and golf courses may not water more than 2 days a week *before* 6 am or *after* 6 pm. In addition, water waste is prohibited, including irrigating in a manner which results in runoff from 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 exceptions, visit www.goletawater.com.

What do I need to tell my landscaper?

Make sure your landscaper is aware a Stage III Water Shortage Emergency is in effect and GWD is enforcing mandatory outdoor watering restrictions, including issuing fines. As of May 12, 2015 new restrictions on watering times are in place: watering with fixed (i.e.) installed sprinkler systems is restricted to certain days (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, routinely check for leaks and reprogram the system to comply with new watering times. 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 (805)964-6761, or in person at 4699 Hollister Avenue in Goleta. For a handy checklist with water use restrictions in Spanish and English, click here.

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

Restrictions under Stage II remain in effect. 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 now required to post water shortage notices, 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 III Water Shortage impact commercial growers and nurseries?

Agricultural customers using overhead spray sprinklers outdoors are restricted to *before* 10 am or *after* 4pm. All other 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 use 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. 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 III 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 investigate the matter and impose penalties.

How does the District's Stage III 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 March 17, 2015 and the Governor's Executive Order issued on April 1, 2015.

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

Since over half of all water used in the Goleta Valley is attributable to outdoor irrigation, the easiest way to save water is to limit watering your yard. If you have a lawn, consider mulching it over and replanting after the drought ends or replacing it with waterwise plants. While a Stage III 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?

The District has several water conservation incentive and rebate programs in connection with a Stage III declaration, including rebates for water wise landscape installation, water saving programs for commercial customers, 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.