



Drought Brings Additional Measures to the City's Conservation Ordinance

In response to the ongoing severe drought and to comply with statewide regulations, the Camarillo City Council recently implemented Stage 2 measures of the City's long-standing water conservation ordinance. These measures were approved by City Council on June 25, 2014, and apply to public and private institutions, businesses, residences, and agricultural farms in the City of Camarillo Water Division service area. If you receive water from another water agency, please check with them for their regulations. Enforcement of the additional measures for City of Camarillo Water Division customers begins September 1, 2014, including the issuance of citations for violations.

Mandatory conservation measures are needed to ensure that the community continues to receive the maximum benefit of the City's water resources in this time of drought and limited state water supplies, and to avoid significant cost increases. By using water wisely and reducing unnecessary consumption, we can protect our available sources.

Following is a list of key conservation rules that all City water customers must follow:

- **Watering with sprinklers is limited to 3 days per week.**
Addresses ending with an **even** number will be permitted to water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and addresses ending with an **odd** number on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- **Watering landscape between the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. is prohibited.**
In other words, you must water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. only on allowed days.
Waivers for new landscaping are available by calling (805) 388-5373.
- **Landscape irrigation water must not be allowed to run to waste.**
- **Ornamental lakes or ponds cannot be filled or refilled unless needed to sustain aquatic life.**
- **Initial filling of residential swimming pools or spas is prohibited, and draining or refilling of more than one foot is also prohibited.**
Waivers for the purpose of repairing existing pools or spas may be obtained by calling (805) 388-5373.
- **Washing of hard surfaces, such as sidewalks, patios, driveways, tennis courts or parking lots, is prohibited.**
- **A positive shut-off nozzle must be attached to the hose when hand-watering or when washing cars, trucks, boats, trailers, etc.**
- **Water leaks must be repaired within 48 hours of discovery or notification by the City.**
- **Ornamental fountains must use re-circulated water only.**
- **Water may be served only by request wherever food is served.**
- **Agricultural crop irrigation will be reduced to three days per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).**
- **Conservation rebate information is available at: www.bewaterwise.com or call 1-888-376-3314.**

Outdoor watering makes up the highest part of your water consumption. If you're thinking about installing drought-tolerant landscaping, the City of Camarillo has some great ideas at our Water-Wise Gardening web page. You can find it here: <http://www.camarillogardening.com/>

The full text of the City's conservation ordinance may be viewed or printed from the City's website at: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16239>

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City of Camarillo Water Division **Stage 2 Water Conservation Ordinance FAQ's**

- *What is the most important thing we can do in our home to save water?*

Since most of your water use goes toward outdoor watering, improve how you use water for landscape irrigation. Check that your sprinklers are adjusted properly, and that automatic controllers are timed appropriately. You can also try using a split-cycle: Set your controller to water for 2-3 minutes per station, then an hour later, run the same cycle. You will probably see an improvement in absorption, with less run-off.

- *Do you offer assistance to help me find out why my water use is high?*

Yes, a free residential water survey is available to City of Camarillo Water Division customers upon request. The survey includes an evaluation of your previous water bill, observation and testing for water leaks in your household and service line, and provides guidance on efficient irrigation and drought-tolerant landscaping. If you want to sign up for a free survey and save on your water bills, or if you'd like more information about the program, please call the Water Division at (805) 388-5373.

- *How can I monitor my own water use?*

You can monitor your water use by checking your water meter regularly. The water meter is located in a concrete or polymer box with a cover and a reading lid, at the front of the house near the street or sidewalk. There is a triangular leak detector on the face of the register that will turn if water is going through the meter. This dial should not be moving if all the water is off in the house. If the dial is turning, try to find the source. Most likely, you have a leak in your irrigation system, a toilet with a leaking flapper, or a leaking faucet.

You can track your own daily usage by writing down the read on the register of the water meter.

1. Read the odometer completely. Write it down with the date and time you read it. Read it again the next day at the same time. The first digit on the right indicates 1 cubic foot, the second digit is 10 cubic feet, and the third is 100 cubic feet.
2. Subtract the first read from the second read. This is your usage in cubic feet.
3. Multiply the water use by 748 and the result is your usage in gallons.

- *Do you offer assistance in programming irrigation controllers?*

Yes, call the Water Division at (805) 388-5373 to make an appointment.

- *We have a Smart Irrigation Controller. Will we be exempt from the ordinance?*

No. Smart controllers can be switched to "manual" mode.

- *How can we report a water leak or misuse?*

Contact the Water Division at (805) 388-5373 or waterdiv@cityofcamarillo.org

- *What are the fees for violations?*

A warning will be issued for the first violation. The second violation within 12 months may have a fine not to exceed \$100; the fine for a third violation within 12 months is not to exceed \$500. Fourth and subsequent violations within 12 months is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000. The full text of the City's conservation ordinance can be viewed or printed from the City's website at: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientID=16239>

- *Can we replace our grass with artificial turf?*

Yes, the use of synthetic turf can be used in conformance with the requirements found in the City of Camarillo Landscape and Irrigation Guidelines. Contact our Community Development Department at (805) 388-5365 for more information. Rebates may be available at www.bewaterwise.com

- *Why is construction for new developments being allowed?*

New developments must prepare a water impact study. In order for the new project to be approved, the water impact study must demonstrate that the proposed project will not create additional demand on the city water system. An example of such non-impact would be if the proposed project does not require an increase in water usage from that historically used on the same site.