

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 8, 2021

To: All Investor-Owned Water Utilities

SUBJECT: Governor Gavin Newsom's Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to Drought

Dear Water Utilities:

On July 8, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a [State of Emergency Proclamation](#) and [Executive Order N-10-21](#) urging Californians to preserve the state's surface and groundwater supplies and to better prepare for the potential for continued dry conditions next year. In response to climate change and worsening drought conditions, the Governor previously issued proclamations on April 12 and May 10, 2021 declaring that a state of emergency exists in a total of 41 counties due to severe drought conditions and directed state agencies to take immediate action to preserve critical water supplies and mitigate the effects of drought. This latest proclamation adds 9 additional counties to the list of 41 for a total of 50 counties across California experiencing emergency drought conditions. As California's water supplies continue to be severely depleted, the Governor has specifically called on all Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent from 2020 levels as conservation is the most effective and timely action that can extend available water supplies.

The CPUC now calls on the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to implement voluntary water conservation measures to achieve the 15 percent reduction in water use from 2020 levels to heed the call from this latest Proclamation and Executive Order. As a reminder, the Water Division's Standard Practice U-40¹ (SP-40) outlines drought procedures and guidance for IOUs to implement voluntary conservation. In accordance with SP-40, IOUs electing to activate voluntary conservation measures are required to notify the Director of the Commission's Water Division via letter. The utility's customers shall be notified of the voluntary conservation measures through a bill insert or direct mailing.

1

https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/Utilities_and_Industries/Water/Standard_Practice_U40W_2014_wo.pdf

A listing of voluntary water conservation measures as outlined in Tariff Rule 14.1 in accordance to SP-40 are listed as an attachment to this letter in Attachment A.

For additional commonsense, no-, or low-cost water savings measures, IOUs should encourage customers to visit www.SaveOurWater.com. Customers can also learn more about current conditions, the state's response and informational resources available to the public at the state's new [drought preparedness website](#).

Please direct any questions to me at Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov or Water Division, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3298.

Sincerely,

Terence Shia

Terence Shia
Water Division Director
California Public Utilities Commission

CC: President Marybel Batjer
Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma
Commissioner Darcie Houck
Rachel Peterson, Executive Director, CPUC
Grant Mack, Office of Government Affairs Director, CPUC

Attachment A

A listing of voluntary water conservation measures as outlined in Tariff Rule 14.1 in accordance to SP-40 are listed below:

1. Use of potable water for more than minimal landscaping, as defined in the landscaping regulated of the jurisdiction or as described in Article 10.8 of the California Government Code in connection with new construction;
2. Excessive use of water: when a utility has notified the customer in writing to repair a broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system and the customer has failed to effect such repairs within five business days, the utility may install a flow restriction device;
3. Use of potable water which results in flooding or runoff in gutters or streets;
4. Individual private washing of cars with a hose except with the use of a positive action shut-off nozzle. Use of potable water for washing commercial aircraft, cars, buses, boats, trailers, or other commercial vehicles at any time, except at commercial or fleet vehicle or boat washing facilities operated at a fixed location where equipment using water is properly maintained to avoid wasteful use;
5. Use of potable water for washing buildings, structures, driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas, except in the cases where health and safety are at risk;
6. Use of potable water to irrigate turf, lawns, gardens, or ornamental landscaping by means other than drip irrigation, or hand watering without quick acting positive action shut-off nozzles, on a specific schedule, for example: 1) before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.; 2) every other day; or 3) selected days of the week;
7. Use of potable water for street cleaning with trucks, except for initial wash-down for construction purposes (if street sweeping is not feasible), or to protect the health and safety of the public;
8. Use of potable water for construction purposes, such as consolidation of backfill, dust control, or other uses unless no other source of water or other method can be used.
9. Use of potable water for construction purposes unless no other source of water or other method can be used;
10. Use of potable water for street cleaning;
11. Operation of commercial car washes without recycling at least 50% of the potable water used per cycle;
12. Use of potable water for watering outside plants, lawn, landscape and turf areas during certain hours if and when specified in Schedule No. 14.1 when the schedule is in effect;

13. Use of potable water for decorative fountains or the filling or topping off of decorative lakes or ponds. Exceptions are made for those decorative fountains, lakes, or ponds which utilize recycled water;
14. Use of potable water for the filling or refilling of swimming pools.
15. Service of water by any restaurant except upon the request of a patron;
and
16. Use of potable water to flush hydrants, except where required for public health or safety.