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**DROUGHT UPDATE
City of Palo Alto Utilities**

Update on drought conditions and current water use regulations in Palo Alto from the Utilities Department. Information is provided below.

**C A L I F O R N I A DR O U G H T C O N D I T I O N S**

Due to continued drought conditions throughout California, Governor Brown issued a new [executive order](http://midtownresidents.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=165f33b64b6c2c206d32a1271&id=e3029862e6&e=23f330c6c3) on April 1, 2015 requiring a 25% statewide water use reduction. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is tasked with developing regulations for compliance with this new mandate. Additionally, SWRCB adopted [emergency drought regulations](http://midtownresidents.us4.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=165f33b64b6c2c206d32a1271&id=bf10ab733c&e=23f330c6c3) on March 17. These new regulations add to the [emergency drought response](http://midtownresidents.us4.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=165f33b64b6c2c206d32a1271&id=89c04f6496&e=23f330c6c3) action the Board took in July 2014, which set restrictions on outdoor use of potable water. The new regulations place further restrictions on outdoor and indoor water use.

* Limit to the number of days per week potable water irrigation is allowed for turf grass and ornamental landscapes.
* Irrigation is prohibited within 48 hours of measurable rainfall.
* Restaurants and other food service establishments must only serve drinking water upon request.
* Hotels and motels must offer guests the option to forego daily laundering of sheets and towels.

**P A L O A L T O W A T E R U S E R E G U L A T I O N S**

The City of Palo Alto maintains permanent water use regulations in the Municipal Code, which prohibit water waste. The following water uses are prohibited in Palo Alto:

* Landscape irrigation between 10:00 AM -- 6:00 PM, unless irrigation is applied by drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or hand watering.
* Application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
* Use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash autos or other vehicles, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
* Application of potable water to driveways and/or sidewalks, with exemptions for health, safety or state/federal permitting requirements.
* Use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, unless the fountain uses a recirculating system.
* Use of potable water for consolidation of backfill and other nondomestic uses in construction if other water sources such as reclaimed water are available.
* Any broken or defective plumbing, sprinklers, watering or irrigation systems which permit the escape or leakage of water. These shall be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

**P A L O A L T O'S D R O U G H T R E S P O N S E**

The City of Palo Alto is currently determining how the State regulations adopted on March 17 will be implemented and enforced. The SWRCB is also expected to announce how cities and water agencies must comply with the Governor’s executive order declaring mandatory water use reductions in May. Please visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/water](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/water) for updates. We will continue to update this webpage as new information becomes available.

On January 31, 2014, Palo Alto’s water supplier, SFPUC, asked all agencies that it serves to voluntarily reduce water use by 10%. From February through December 2014, Palo Alto used 16% less water than in 2013 and achieved the highest water savings of all retail water agencies in Santa Clara County. We thank community members for successfully responding to this call for conservation!

Water use efficiency is important every day, regardless of drought conditions. The City of Palo Alto offers many resources to help you use water wisely, including free water surveys, conservation devices, educational programs and rebates for appliance or landscape upgrades. You can view more information regarding the water situation and water efficiency rebates at the links below.

**Residential Water Conservation Rebates** <http://tinyurl.com/oo48qyn>

**Water & Drought Update** <http://tinyurl.com/qypau6c>

**Drought FAQs** <http://tinyurl.com/pgwm6gp>

Please let me know if I can answer any questions at this time.

Thanks,
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