



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** June 23, 2015
From: Dennis Cron, Assistant Town Manager **Item No:** 10
Subject: WATER USAGE/CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file or provide additional direction as appropriate.

SUMMARY:

Town Public Works, Streets, Facilities and Golf Course maintenance staff have made significant efforts to comply with the Governor's mandatory water conservation requirements and new ideas and programs are considered in this effort continuously.

BACKGROUND:

At the Town Council meeting on April 14, 2015, Mayor Pro Tem Barb Stanton requested an update on the Town's efforts and associated response to the drought. Those particular steps and actions are further described later in this staff report.

Listed below is the status on the mandatory directive and the provisions we find ourselves struggling with in the High Desert.

On January 17, 2014, the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency under the California Emergency Services Act based on drought conditions existing in the State; and on April 25, 2014, the Governor again proclaimed a continuation of drought conditions in the State; then on April 1, 2015, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the State Water Board to impose restrictions upon water suppliers to achieve a Statewide reduction of 25% in potable urban water usage through February 2016. The

executive order, amongst other things, requires commercial and industrial users of water to implement water use efficiency measures; prohibits irrigation of ornamental turf in public street medians; and prohibits irrigation outside of newly constructed homes and buildings unless it is delivered using drip or micro-spray irrigation.

The State Water Board subsequently issued mandatory limits on the use of water, all of which have been in place and enforced under the Town's Municipal Code for many years (i.e. shut-off nozzle on the hose when washing a car, washing of driveways with a hose, excess water run-off from irrigation, prohibition on restaurants automatically serving customers with water, etc.).

In addition to these measures, the State Board developed a procedure, on a very compressed timeline, for meeting the Governor's water conservation order, which further clarified mandatory restrictions on water suppliers. This process imposed restrictions based upon each water purveyor's (R-GPCD) residential gallons per capita per day as reported individually by each water purveyor. The State Board then used these reported production numbers to arrive at an average residential customer usage per day (gallons used per residential customer per day) which the State Board used to further establish levels of mandatory conservation Statewide. These reductions range from 8% for the lowest users, to a high of 36% for those users with the highest residential daily usage. Apple Valley Ranchos customers are mandated to reduce residential consumption, below the 2013 baseline year, by 28%. Golden State Water Company's customers are required to reduce consumption by 24%.

NOTE: The R-GPCD reduction requirement makes no adjustment based upon climatic conditions. Stated more clearly, beach communities are treated equally to the more arid desert climates for the purposes of implementing the conservation mandate. In addition, the State Water Board mandate includes "unaccounted for water" in the total consumption reported by each water system. Unaccounted for water is water that escapes metering, or in most cases, is leaked from system water mains of the water purveyor. The residential water customer can do nothing to control this leakage beyond quickly reporting it to the appropriate water purveyor. This leakage is included within, and is counted as part of the average daily residential consumption for the purposes of meeting the mandate. It is not permitted to be subtracted from the total metered sales to help reduce the average day customer consumption.

In addition to the mandated conservation reduction requirement, the order provides for fines and civil penalties to be imposed upon those who fail to meet mandated limits or are found to violate the terms of the mandate. These fines may be imposed upon the violator for each day the violation is found to exist.

In response to the Governor's declaration and mandated conservation requirements, the following bullet items list specific conservation measures taken and/or planned in the various Town Departments. These steps were taken administratively by Town staff well in advance of, and in anticipation of, the final regulation circulated by the State.

Public Works, Grounds and Parks

- Removed more than 5,200 square feet of turf at Civic Center Park and Town Hall and replaced it with decorative rock and shrubs with drip irrigation.
- Removed 24,300 square feet of turf, trees and shrubs from Brewster Park in anticipation of construction for the VVWRA Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Reduced irrigation time clock runtimes by 30% system-wide and reduced irrigation timing at Norm Schmidt Park by 50%.
- Public Works and Grounds staff are manually turning the irrigation systems on, station by station and actively searching for leaks on a weekly basis. When they locate a leak, they are immediately repairing them.

Landscaping and Lighting Districts

- Irrigation runtimes have been reduced on all landscaping district maintained areas by 30%.
- Removed and/or capped all unnecessary irrigation feeders where plants have been removed.
- Replaced turf at Apple Valley Road and Catalina Road, the entrance to the Sterling tract and replaced the turf with decorative rock and drought tolerant shrubs and plants.

Recreation Department

- The annual AVPAL sponsored mud run, scheduled for August 22nd at Horseman's Center has been cancelled to conserve water.
- Immediately following the 4th of July Holiday, after the play-offs are concluded, field 5 at James Woody Park will have the infield turf removed, reducing turf by approximately 1,600 square feet.
- Approximately eight feet (8') of turf bordering James Woody Park along Powhatan Road is slated to be permanently removed, eliminating approximately 5,000 square feet of turf.

- Approximately 500 square feet of turf is being removed from the front of the James Woody Community Center along Navajo Road.
- 800 square feet of turf has been removed on the north side of the auditorium at James Woody Park.
- Little league and Pony league coaches have been instructed that they are no longer permitted to water the ball fields in preparation for practice. Watering to prepare the infield will only be permitted for scheduled game play.
- A letter request has been submitted to Golden State Water Company under its conservation grant program, requesting it provide a “smart irrigation controller” for Virginia Park.

Golf Course Operation

- All non-essential turf is being considered for removal. This work is ongoing and is constantly being evaluated in consultation with our partners at Sierra Golf Management Company.
- We are discussing whether removal of the first 50 yards of each hole should be considered for removal. This is a drastic step that will impact the Golf Course, but it is an additional reduction step we will take if necessary.
- 370 existing irrigation heads have been removed from areas deemed non-essential to play and the turf has been left to die.
- Approximately 28 acres of turf along outlying edges and several internal areas have been removed from the irrigation sequence, reducing irrigated turf acreage by approximately 24%. These areas have begun to brown and are in varying stages of die-back. Some of this area removed from irrigation is located along the 18th hole, immediately adjacent to Rancherias Road and it is plainly visible.
- Where determined appropriate and useful, high flow irrigation heads will continue to be replaced with low-flow irrigation heads and adjustable heads for those areas that are appropriate.
- Golf Course irrigation water delivered from the Ranchos Water system is being constantly monitored by the Golf Course Superintendent and he continues to consult with the Town on a regular schedule.

This concludes the staff report of the important steps taken on behalf of the Town to date. We will continue to evaluate every potential method for reducing the Town’s use of water in furtherance of the State-wide water conservation mandates.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Undetermined at this time