

Current Conservation Measures (June 27, 2022)

The current mandatory water conservation measures under the Stage 2 water shortage level condition are as follows:

- Watering of lawns, functional turf, trees, shrubs, vegetation, landscape and other outside irrigation is limited to one day per week.
- Watering Schedule:
 - Odd numbered addresses (Ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9): Sundays ONLY
 - Even numbered addresses (Ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8): Saturdays ONLY
- No watering between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (non-daylight savings time)
- No watering between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. (daylight savings time)
- Exceptions to allow for irrigation outside of the designated periods include:
 - (1.) the hand watering of trees, food plants, or other perennials with use of a container (e.g. bucket or watering can) or a hose fitted with a shut-off nozzle and
 - (2.) the use of drip irrigation or other high-efficiency irrigation systems to apply water at a weekly volume consistent with the one-day watering restriction imposed on less efficient irrigation systems.
- Watering or irrigating of functional turf, landscape or other vegetated area with potable water using a landscape irrigation system or a watering device is limited to no more than 10 minutes per day per station.
- Irrigation of park and school ground areas with potable water will only be permitted during the once weekly designated irrigation periods noted above.
- Sport activity fields can irrigate more frequently as necessary to maintain a safe playing surface quality.
- All vegetation within Wildland-Urban Interface and Defensible Space will be maintained as required under Public Resource Code 4291.
- The application of potable water to landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.
- The irrigation of newly constructed homes and building exteriors with potable water is prohibited unless drip or microspray systems are used.
- The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature is prohibited, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
- The City must provide prompt notice to customers when information indicates a leak may exist within the end-user's control.
- Irrigation of non-functional turf on medians with potable water is prohibited.

In addition Permanent Water Conservation Measures listed under Oxnard City Code Chapter 22, Sec. 22-136 must always be followed regardless of water shortage level. Declaration of a water shortage level imposes additional water use restrictions.

- Excessive irrigation of landscape which results in water running off and/or pooling on hard surfaced areas, including sidewalks, streets, driveways, and patios.

- Washing a vehicle or boat without a workable automatic shut off nozzle installed on the hose.
- Washing down hard surfaces or the exterior of a building using a hose or flooding, except as required for the protection of public health and safety.
- Serving water at eating establishments without customer request.
- Filling and refilling swimming pools except as required for repair or maintenance, health and safety reasons, or in small amounts as needed to maintain proper water levels.
- Irrigating landscape between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, except when testing an irrigation system or making repairs.
- Irrigating when it is raining.
- Washing dishes in commercial eating establishments without the use of a high efficiency pre-rinse spray nozzle.
- Installing new commercial car wash and laundry systems without re-circulating water systems.
- Installing single-pass commercial/industrial cooling systems.
- Plumbing leaks, breaks, and malfunctions must be fixed within 72 hours of discovery.
- Ornamental fountains and water features must use recycled water or be equipped with a recirculating pump.
- Hotels and motels must post notices encouraging water conservation practices, including the option of not having linens and towels laundered daily.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the current conservation measures end?

Mandatory water conservation measures will remain in place until further notice and are subject to directives from the Governor and the State Water Resources Control Board. As the year progresses, additional measures may be implemented such as moving to a “no outdoor water use” restriction for all customers. Please visit OxnardWater.org to stay up to date on the latest restrictions.

2. What is functional turf versus non-functional turf?

Non-functional turf is a ground cover surface of mowed grass that is ornamental and not otherwise used for human recreation purposes. Non-functional turf does not include school fields, sports fields, and areas regularly used for civic or community events.

Non-Functional Turf examples (no watering)

- A grass area that does not provide a recreational benefit:
- Streetscape turf - turf located along public or private streets, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.
- Frontage, courtyard, interior and building-adjacent turf - turf in front of, between, behind or otherwise adjacent to a building or buildings located on a property not zoned exclusively for single-family residence, including maintenance and common areas.

- Certain HOA-managed landscape areas - turf managed by a homeowner association that does not provide a recreational benefit to the community or that otherwise does not qualify as functional turf.

Functional Turf examples

A grass area that provides a recreational benefit:

- Residential turf - turf within individual home yards.
- Athletic field turf - turf used for sports or physical education and located at a school, daycare, religious institution, recreation center, senior center or park.
- Designated use area - turf designated for special use at cemeteries and mortuaries.
- Pet relief area - turf at a property providing commercial and retail services for pets, such as veterinarian and boarding facilities.
- Playground turf - turf within designated play areas with playground amenities, including but not limited to slides, swings and climbing structures on homeowner association owned/managed property or at a public park, school, daycare, recreation center, senior center or religious institution.

3. Does the non-functional turf irrigation ban apply to residential properties?

No, residential properties may continue to irrigate turf per the one day per week watering schedule or until further notice.

4. Who do the water conservation measures apply to?

All Oxnard water customers, including residents, businesses, and organizations (including HOAs) are required to follow the mandatory water conservation measures.

5. Why are we only allowed one day per week for watering?

Due to low water supplies as a result of California's third consecutive dry year, on April 26 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) declared a Water Shortage Emergency in which they limited outdoor irrigation to one day per week for state water project dependent areas. This action affects approximately 6.6 million people, including the City of Oxnard. On May 17th, Oxnard's City Council adopted mandatory conservation measures in line with the actions by MWD and to avoid potential penalties from MWD.

The one day per week watering schedule applies to functional turf only, there is no watering of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial and institutional properties.

6. Is there a time limit for irrigation during designated watering days?

Watering duration is limited to no more than 10 minutes per designated watering day, per irrigation station.

You can utilize the “cycle and soak” method. This method involves scheduling several shorter watering cycles in the same day (still limited to the 10 minute total time), allowing 30 minutes or more in between for water to optimally soak into your landscape.

7. Can I water whenever I want during my designated watering day or spread the watering time out over multiple days?

Watering is allowed from 6pm to 9am during Daylight Savings and from 4pm to 9am during Non Daylight Savings on your designated watering day. There are no exceptions.

8. Why is watering only restricted to weekends? Can I request a different day?

The one day a week watering schedule is limited to Saturdays and Sundays to allow for better management and enforcement of the new watering restrictions due to the severe drought. Unfortunately, we are not able to make exceptions to the watering schedule.

9. How will I keep my trees alive?

It is very important to maintain healthy trees. Trees provide us with clean air, help cool neighborhoods, stabilize soil and provide habitat to wildlife. Depending on temperatures, most climate-adapted trees can survive on one day of watering per week, particularly with localized low-volume watering through a drip, bubbler or soaker hose system applied directly to the root zone. Most climate-appropriate trees can survive on 5 - 10 gallons of water per week. Should additional watering be required, the hand watering of trees with use of a container (e.g. bucket or watering can) or a hose fitted with a shut-off nozzle outside of the designated watering day is allowed.

10. Is it okay to water my food plants?

Yes, food plants can be hand watered with the use of a container (e.g. bucket or watering can) or a hose fitted with a shut-off nozzle outside of the designated watering day.

11. Can I use graywater to water outside of the designated watering days?

Yes, irrigation restrictions apply to potable (drinking) water only.

If you wish to install and use a residential laundry graywater disposal system (LGDS), please follow the [State guidelines](#).

If you wish to utilize a graywater system as allowed by the State of California, please contact the City’s Community Development Department at (805) 385-7896 with any questions.

12. Does the one day a week watering apply to the whole County and State?

The restrictions apply to water from the State Water Project (SWP). Since the City of Oxnard receives roughly 40% of its water supply from the SWP and blends it with groundwater, these restrictions apply to Oxnard. Some other cities may have additional or alternative water supplies and are either not on mandated water restrictions by MWD or are able to meet reduction mandates while avoiding limiting outdoor irrigation to one day per week.

13. I read that Los Angeles is allowing 2 days per week irrigation, why aren't we?

Currently, the one day per week irrigation restrictions are for State Water Project (SWP) dependent member agencies and is a function of a penalty avoidance alternative provided by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) to the City. Los Angeles is not dependent on the SWP water supplies in a similar fashion as Ventura County and therefore not subject to the same restrictions and/or penalty avoidance alternatives.

14. Why is there a focus on irrigation?

Using less water is important. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a household's outdoor water use can be as high as 60%. Furthermore, it's estimated that up to 50% of the water we use outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems. Because of this, the State of California and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) are focusing on reducing outdoor watering as the most effective way to achieve substantial reductions.

MWD has implemented an Emergency Water Conservation Program which requires State Water Project dependent areas, such as Oxnard, to implement outdoor irrigation restrictions and meet volumetric limits of state water supplies. If Oxnard does not comply with these restrictions, there will be significant penalties assessed by MWD. Cutting down on outdoor watering can be an impactful way to save water and avoid the penalties.

[Read more from the EPA on outdoor water use.](#)

15. Can my HOA fine me for not watering my turf?

No. HOA enforcement of residents' landscaping requirements is not permitted during the drought and you have 6 months after the drought is over to re-landscape. However, you should remove weeds and dead brush for fire resiliency.

16. What is the City doing to stop wasting water in the parks?

Irrigation in all areas of City parks, including sports fields, will adhere to the City's current mandatory water conservation measures. The Parks Division is working to conduct irrigation

audits to identify and address any deficiencies. Thanks to Measure E investments, the City is actively working on repairing and/or upgrading aging irrigation systems throughout the City. We encourage residents who see broken irrigation or other water-waste throughout our parks to report it to the Water Division by calling the Water Conservation Hotline at (805) 385-3905 or by using the [Oxnard 311 app](#).

17. Why does my water bill keep going up even when I am saving water?

First, it is important to note that water rates were last increased in January 2018 and most recently decreased in September 2021 to remove the Infrastructure Use Fee (IUF) portion of the city's utility rates.

Your monthly utility bill's billing period can vary month to month, where your monthly bill can be for 28 days and the next one could be for 33 days. This could potentially impact the overall total of your bill.

If you notice a significant increase in the consumption of water, it is critical that you have your plumbing checked for a potential leak. Other household items that can contribute to an increase in water consumption are leaky toilets, faucets, valves, washing machines, water heaters, dishwashers, and water softeners with high discharge rates.

18. Why won't the City stop watering the golf course?

The golf course receives its irrigation water from two on-site wells. The water from these wells are from a different water supply under the authority of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency and not subject to the drought restrictions.

However, in an ongoing effort to reduce help conserve water, the City is voluntarily cutting back on water use at the golf course which includes: reducing irrigation of the some of the non-playable areas, including the parkway along Vineyard Ave.; playable areas will be watered more per the recommended exemption for sports fields; and golf staff will make every effort to reduce the water use as much as possible. Additionally, the golf course is developing a prioritized list of areas that can be converted from turf to California-friendly and/or water efficient landscapes.

19. Why is the City approving more housing if you say we're in a drought?

The City needs to comply with housing mandates from the State of California. California is in need of additional housing for residents and workers. However, the state has imposed housing regulations to ensure the protection of water resources. New housing complies with state building and water efficiency codes, which when coupled with smaller landscape areas of multi-family residential units, is significantly more water efficient than single-family housing built many years ago.

20. Why are we building an Aquatics Center when there is a drought?

The City is designing and building a state-of-the-art pool using automated, high-efficiency equipment to help ensure proper pool-water management and energy conservation. The design will include wind protection design principles, which will decrease evaporation. Once completed, the City will also use pool covers during closed hours to prevent water losses from evaporation, which will minimize pool re-fills or water replacement.

The proposed aquatic center will require about 3 acre-feet of water to fill the pools from empty, which is roughly the amount of water 3 homes use in a year. That is 0.01% of the total amount of water the City produces in a year (roughly 27,000 acre-feet)

Additionally, learning how to swim is a life-saving measure. Drowning is the leading cause of preventable death for children aged one to four years. In California, drowning is the leading cause of death for children under fourteen years. The Aquatics Center will offer residents the opportunity to learn how to swim safely and at low cost.

21. Why are farms allowed to use so much water?

While there are conservation mandates for many Californians who use State Water supplies, agricultural customers use their private raw water source or in some cases use recycled water which are not regulated by potable water mandates. The wells and the amount of water that can be extracted are managed by local groundwater management agencies such as the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency.

22. Can I wash my car?

Boats, vehicles and other mobile equipment shall be washed only at commercial wash facilities that recycle their wash water; or by use of a bucket and hose equipped with a self-closing valve that requires operator pressure to activate the flow of water; or by mobile high pressure/low volume professional services that contain and capture their water.

23. Can I build/fill my swimming pool?

Currently there is no restriction on the construction of or the initial filling of a swimming pool. The filling and refilling of a swimming pool is only permitted for the first filling, adding small quantities to maintain water level and for health and safety purposes only.

24. How do I know how much water I'm using now?

Please refer to your water bill. The units are HCF (Hundred Cubic Feet=748 gallons). The bill also shows the average daily usage in HCF and gallons, and your use history for the past year.

You can also contact the City's Utility Billing Department at 805-385-7816 to go over your bill and water consumption.

25. How can I report water waste?

Water waste can be reported through the [Oxnard 311 app](#), by calling the Water Conservation and Education Hotline at (805) 385-3905, or by email at Waterconservation@oxnard.org.

26. Are there any rebates for reducing turf or helping to reduce water use?

Yes. Please visit bewaterwise.com for a list of available rebates and application forms. There are rebates for high efficiency clothes washers, high efficiency toilets, high efficiency rotating nozzle sprinklers, turf replacement and more. Turf rebates of \$3 per square foot are available to Oxnard Water customers; \$2 provided through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and \$1 provided through Calleguas Municipal Water District. Rebate amounts vary by water agency and are based on the availability of funding. You can estimate your rebate [here](#).

27. How should I landscape if I remove my turf?

There are lots of good resources available for helping you convert to drought tolerant landscaping. Please refer to our [landscaping page](#) for resources. It is recommended that you postpone the planting portion of your project until the drought is over and water availability improves, however some landscaping may be required now for erosion control measures or water quality features. This may include features such as rain gardens and dry creek beds. If you are using a rebate program to help pay for the landscape transition, please ensure you are in compliance with the required project timeline.

28. Drought is not new to California. Haven't we been investing in improving our water supply?

The City receives roughly 40% of its water supply from the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas), part of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) service area. Calleguas and MWD have invested over \$1.5 billion in water efficiency measures, storage expansion and overall system upgrades since the 1990s. During this time, the total water demand in the region has dropped 20% even though the population has grown by almost 30%.

29. What about using recycled water? Doesn't The City of Oxnard have a recycled water plant?

While the City does have a recycled water plant, the use of recycled water is highly regulated and our permit with the State does not allow for direct residential recycled water use. Instead the City optimizes the use of recycled water and is compensated to include the exchange of groundwater pumping allocations from our agricultural customers to be transferred to Oxnard. In addition, the City is in the process of working with the State to permit and utilize this highly

purified recycled water for injection into the aquifer for storage. This helps ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply and protects existing groundwater supply from the impacts of seawater intrusion.

30. What is Calleguas doing to improve local water supply and resiliency?

Calleguas just completed their comprehensive water supply alternatives study, which outlined dozens of possible local water supply and augmentation possibilities. That study will be published soon, but you can read about it and other similar resiliency programs at www.calleguas.com/images/pdfs/scwc-publication-ventura-nla-county.pdf.

Calleguas is also under construction for a critical system interconnection right now on Lindero Canyon Road that will tie their system to the LA County System with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, which will further boost emergency water supply and resiliency. You can read about that important project here: <http://www.cmwd-lvmwdinterconnection.com/>.

31. What are the consequences if I do not follow the water conservation restrictions?

The Oxnard Water Division shall take the following actions when water waste is reported or observed:

First Violation	Courtesy Notice/Educational Letter 7 Day Post Letter Follow Up Phone Call	For a first violation, the City may give written notice of the fact of such violation to the customer by personal service, by delivery through regular United States mail addressed to the customer's residence, or any other means reasonably designed to notify the customer of the violation. The notice contains a description of violation, lists all prohibited water waste, and provides resources such as rebate information. Follow up to see if the customer has received the educational letter. Discuss if the issue has been addressed and offer additional information/resources
Second Violation	Letter - Warning of Penalty	Letter may contain a description of the facts of the violation, a statement of the possible penalties for violation and a statement informing the customer of his/her right to request an adjustment or an appeal.
Third Violation	Penalty	A surcharge may be imposed on the customer in an amount equal to 25 percent of the most recent utility bill (exclusive of the sewer and refuse portion of the bill), or \$25, whichever is greater, payable as part of the utility bill for the location at which the violation occurred.
Fourth Violation	Penalty	A surcharge may be imposed on the customer in an amount equal to 50 percent of the most recent utility bill (exclusive of the sewer and refuse portion of the



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		bill), or, \$50, whichever is greater, payable as part of the utility bill for the location at which the violation occurred.
Additional Violations	Fine/Admin Cites	Impose such other penalty or fine as deemed appropriate by the City Manager, until such time that the City Manager determines that further violations are not likely to occur.