



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 23, 2014

M,L,B,C,G,U,W

**Contact:**

Michael Bacich - Assistant General Manager Customer Relations/Marketing  
(951) 826-5422

**RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL MOVES TO ACTIVATE MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES CUSTOMERS**

**Riverside, Calif.** – In response to the call for increased conservation by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Governor’s office, Riverside’s City Council has voted to activate mandatory water conservation restrictions for Riverside Public Utilities’ (RPU) water customers starting August 1.

“California is faced with continued, and increasingly serious, drought conditions,” said Riverside’s Mayor Rusty Bailey, “and we are all obligated to take steps now that will help conserve our valuable water supplies.”

The council made changes to existing water supply planning and management documents in order to modify current municipal code on water conservation and meet the state’s emergency requests for mandatory water reduction measures, especially those limiting outdoor watering. Riverside’s multi-stage plan sets the guidelines RPU customers must meet to reduce water use citywide.

“The mandatory steps we are asking our customers to take aren’t much different from what we’d ask them to do voluntarily,” said RPU General Manager Girish Balachandran. “That includes identifying outdoor water waste and taking aggressive steps to eliminate it,” Balachandran said. “Together, our efforts can make a big difference both locally, and statewide.” By taking part in voluntary conservation programs over the past year, RPU customers were able to save more than 782.4 million gallons, enough water to meet the annual demands of about 4,800 households.

However, RPU customers will now have to take on additional steps to ensure Riverside can meet the new state-mandated conservation goals. Those steps will include: no water waste through run off; no irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; the application of water to streets and sidewalks is prohibited; and washing of autos, trucks, boats, etc. during the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. only with a hand-held bucket and a hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

To assist customers in cutting back, RPU will continue to fund all of its residential and commercial water conservation rebate and incentive programs, which help offset the costs of being water wise. Rebates are available to install high efficiency toilets and clothes washers inside, and Weather Based Irrigation Controllers and high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles outside.

- MORE -

## 2-2-2-2

The utility will also continue to fund its popular Artificial Turf and Waterwise Landscaping programs, and have even increased the incentives and total rebate amounts to encourage more customers to participate in these popular outdoor water conservation programs that remove thirsty lawn areas.

Changes to the utility's Residential Waterwise Landscaping turf removal program include: incentive increases to \$2.00 per square foot of turf removed or up to 100% of the projects cost, whichever is lower; and there is no minimum project size restriction. The Commercial program incentives have been increased to \$3.00 per sq. ft. of turf removed or 100% of project cost, whichever is lower. All program changes are contingent upon continued funding by the Metropolitan Water District and may revert back to previous levels.

Meanwhile, RPU's residential Artificial Turf installation incentives have increased to \$2.00 per square foot, up to 2,000 sq. ft. for a maximum rebate of \$4,000 to replace lawn areas with artificial turf.

Complete details on the mandatory water conservation restrictions for Riverside Public Utilities' customers, as well as information on all available residential and commercial water reduction rebate programs, can be viewed at [www.BlueRiverside.com](http://www.BlueRiverside.com) or by contacting the city's 311 call center.

For additional information about Riverside Public Utilities follow us on Facebook or on Twitter using the handle @RPUNews

####

Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,500 metered electric customers and up to 64,500 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

[www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com](http://www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com)

[www.GreenRiverside.com](http://www.GreenRiverside.com)

[www.BlueRiverside.com](http://www.BlueRiverside.com)

## RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES – WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES INFORMATION

- Recently, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) set new regulations requiring water suppliers throughout the state to implement mandatory emergency water conservation measures to reduce water use as statewide drought conditions continue to worsen.
- Effective July 22, 2014 – Riverside's City Council, on recommendations from its Board of Public Utilities, adopted a resolution modifying its Water Conservation Program / Water Supply Contingency Planning to enact mandatory water conservation steps each Riverside Public Utilities water customer must follow.

### **Per State Board Regulations, the following actions are now prohibited:**

- The direct application of water to any hard surface, including streets or sidewalks for washing.
- Any outdoor landscape watering that causes runoff.
- Using a hose to wash an automobile, unless the hose is fitted with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.

*The state has given water suppliers the ability to charge water waste offenders with fines of \$500 per day if water conservation issues are not addressed.*

### **Riverside Public Utilities Water Customers *must also comply with the following water conservation measures effective immediately:***

- No non-agricultural outdoor watering is allowed between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
- Customers must reduce outdoor watering to only 4 days per week
- Non-agricultural watering is only allowed between 6 p.m. to 10 a.m.
- Customers must reduce their overall water use by 15%
- Irrigation and plumbing leaks must be fixed within 72 hours (or face fines)
- Restaurants should provide water only on request
- Hotels/motels shall provide customers with options of not having towels/linen laundered daily
- Construction operations receiving water shall not use water unnecessarily

### **Riverside Public Utilities will continue to fund residential and commercial Water Conservation Rebate Programs and have increased incentives on its turf replacement programs.**

- **Waterwise Landscaping** turf removal program: Residential incentives have been increased to \$2.00 per square foot of turf removed or up to 100% of the projects cost, whichever is lower. There is no minimum project size restriction. The Commercial program incentives have been increased to \$3.00 per sq. ft. of turf removed or 100% of project cost, whichever is lower. All program changes are contingent upon continued funding by the Metropolitan Water District and may revert back to previous levels.
- **Artificial Turf** installation program: Residential incentives increased to \$2.00 per square foot, up to 2,000 sq. ft. for a maximum rebate of \$4,000 to replace lawn areas with artificial turf.
- **Additional Water Conservation Rebate Programs:** Continued support for **Sprinkler Nozzles** rebate, that provides incentives to install new, high efficiency water saving sprinkler nozzles; **FreeSprinklerNozzles.com** site offers free voucher for a set of high-efficiency water saving nozzles; **Weather Based Irrigation Controller** rebates for installations; **High Efficiency Toilets**, rebates for installing; **High Efficiency Clothes Washer**, rebates for installing.

Conservation program information and applications are available at [www.BlueRiverside.com](http://www.BlueRiverside.com)