

## An Important Message About The Drought & Mandatory Water Conservation Restrictions

California's record drought continues on. It's during these serious drought conditions that every water customer in the state needs to do their part and conserve. In July 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the Governor's office asked that water utilities throughout the state implement mandatory emergency water conservation restrictions.

In response to the state's restrictions last year, Riverside's City Council voted to adopt an emergency ordinance that implemented Stage 2 of the City's Mandatory Water Restrictions and revised its Water Shortage Contingency Plan. While Riverside water customers did well in reducing overall use during the past year, more conservation is still needed locally and statewide.

On March 17, the State Board voted to continue standing water use restrictions and created new restrictions, including authorizing water agencies to levy fines against customers not complying with all rules. The City Council will soon authorize an additional Emergency Water Ordinance to adhere to the State Board's requirements.

### New State-Mandated Mandatory Measures include:

- No watering of turf or ornamental landscapes during, or 48-hours following measurable precipitation.
- Requirements by water agencies to notify customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control to repair.
- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water on request.
- Hotels and motels must provide guests with options of not having towels/linens laundered daily and must prominently display this option.

### All previous mandatory restrictions made from last year are still in effect. These include:

- No washing down of sidewalks and driveways and no watering outdoor landscapes in excess to cause runoff.
- All outdoor watering must be reduced to no more than four times a week. This means that homes and

businesses **must** keep their sprinklers and irrigation systems **turned off** at least three times a week.

- Outdoor watering should be limited to the hours of 6p.m. to 10a.m., and the application of water to streets and sidewalks is prohibited.
- Violation of this restriction is considered an infraction and is punishable by a fine. Riverside Public Utilities customers will be given one (1) courtesy notice to voluntarily correct the violation.
- All other voluntary restrictions for Water Emergency Stages 1 and 2 remain in effect under city ordinance.

This historic drought remains very serious, as state reservoirs continue to shrink. While Riverside Public Utilities gets all of its water from protected groundwater supplies, without replenishing snow and rain, we could soon overstress even those reliable sources. Improving our water efficiency efforts during these extremely dry conditions will help us protect those sources for the long term.

There are many easy steps you can take right now – from replacing a broken toilet flapper (that can save more than 600 gallons a day), to installing free water-saving sprinkler nozzles, or installing a weather based irrigation controller (known as a WBIC). We've even got rebate programs that pay you to make your homes and business more water wise. For more information go to [GreenRiverside.com](http://GreenRiverside.com).

Riverside Public Utilities has proudly served our water customer-owners for more than 100 years. With your help, RPU will be able to continue to comply with the state's emergency conservation requests while ensuring that water resources will continue to be available to serve our current customers as well as those in the future.

Sincerely,



Girish Balachandran  
General Manager, Riverside Public Utilities

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

05/15

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