

Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Updated January 12, 2016

1. Background

As the agency responsible for providing a reliable water supply and protecting public health, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is committed to managing available water supply during normal conditions as well as water shortage conditions such as droughts or water system emergencies.

On July 15, 2014, following the Governor's directive, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency regulations to ensure water agencies and their customers increase water conservation efforts or face possible fines or other enforcement measures. The emergency regulations require water agencies to activate their water shortage contingency plans to a level where outdoor irrigation restrictions are mandatory or submit a request to the Executive Officer of the State Water Resources Control Board for approval of an alternate plan that achieves equivalent results such as through an allocation-based rate structure (budget-based water rates).

The implementation of budget-based water rates on January 1, 2016 provides the basis for this update of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan). As the State recognizes, water budgets can achieve results equivalent to outdoor irrigation restrictions. In lieu of watering restrictions, the District Board of Directors may institute a drought factor to limit outdoor water use and/or reduce the indoor allowance of 55 gallons per day. The 2015 Rate Study found that efficient water throughout the District results in a water use reduction close to the 36% goal set by the State so there is no need to institute a drought factor during initial implementation. In addition, penalties for water use exceeding twice the customer's water budget provides a substantive deterrent for wasteful practices.

2. Stages of Water Supply Shortage

The Water Shortage Contingency Plan establishes four stages of escalating response to a water shortage caused by droughts and emergencies. Refer to Figure 1. Each stage may be triggered by a declaration from Federal or State authorities, Metropolitan Water District or the District to

address events that result in a water shortage. The Administrative Code authorizes the General Manager to implement the appropriate actions necessary to achieve the reduction target.

(a) Stage 1 – Water Shortage Alert

Stage 1 is a condition resulting in a 0 to 10% water shortage necessitating a voluntary water use reduction. The District will initiate a public information campaign to increase awareness of water conservation measures specified in the Administrative Code Section 3-4.404. Customers are expected to perform voluntary water use reductions and adhere to on-going water conservation measures.

(b) Stage 2 – Water Shortage Warning

Stage 2 is a condition resulting in a 10 to 20% water shortage necessitating a higher level of voluntary water use reduction. The District will expand the public information campaign and step up enforcement of water conservation measures. Customers are expected to re-double voluntary water use reductions and strictly adhere to water conservation measures.

(c) Stage 3 – Water Shortage Emergency

Stage 3 is a condition resulting in a 20 to 50% water shortage necessitating mandatory water use reductions. Depending on the severity of the shortage, the District will intensify the public information campaign and expand enforcement of water conservation measures. Additionally, the Board will determine the appropriate drought factor for water budgets if necessary.

(d) Stage 4 – Critical Water Shortage Emergency

Stage 4 is a condition resulting in a 50% or higher water shortage necessitating prohibition of outdoor water use for irrigation, pools and fountains. The District will implement crisis communications and activate its Emergency Operations Center. Customers shall be required to terminate all outdoor use except as necessary to protect public health and safety. Additionally, the Board will determine reduction in indoor water budgets if necessary.

3. Response for Various Stages of Water Supply Shortage

Refer to Table 1 for conditions that could trigger a water supply shortage situation. Key District and customer actions are identified for all stages. Stages 1 and 2 require voluntary reduction efforts from customers. Stage 3 involves mandatory reductions based on a drought factor for

water budgets if necessary. Reduction in the indoor allowance of 55 gallons per person per day may be instituted under Stage 4 if water shortage conditions become more severe.

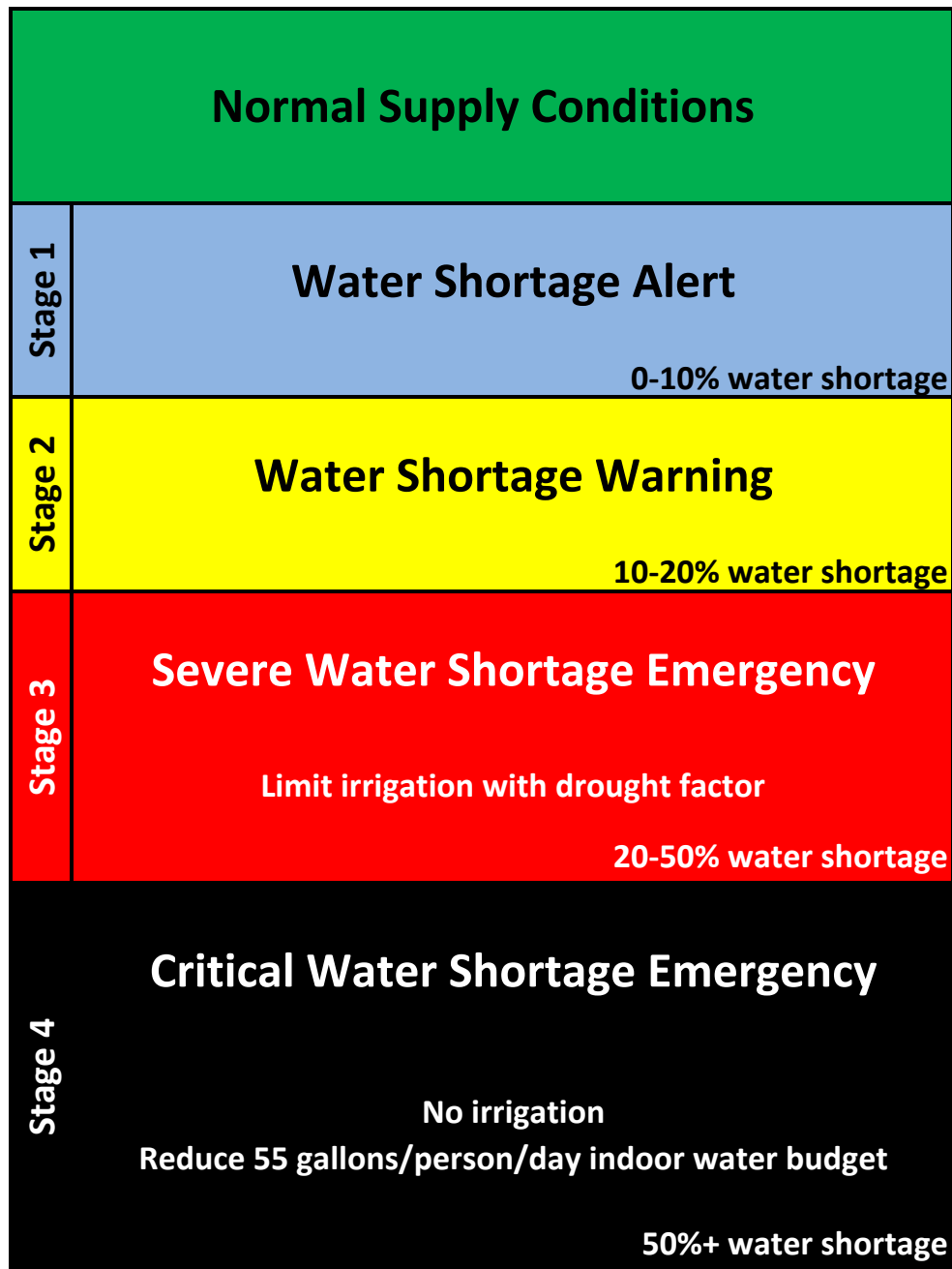


Figure 1. Stages of Water Shortage Condition

Water Shortage Stage	Triggers	District Actions	Customer Actions
<p>Stage 1: Water Supply Alert</p> <p>0-10% water shortage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state or local disaster declaration that may impact water supplies • State or MWD declaration due to drought or system maintenance • LVMWD Board of Directors determination • Unplanned LVMWD water system maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate public information campaign • Increase awareness of conservation measures • Commence enforcement of conservation measures • Promote methods to reduce water use • Conduct focused outreach to large water users • Coordinate public outreach with the cities and County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary water conservation • Adhere to conservation measures • Consider conversion to more efficient irrigation methods • Consider turf removal and conversion to California-friendly landscaping • Patronize local carwashes that recycle their water
<p>Stage 2: Water Shortage Warning</p> <p>10-20% water shortage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state or local disaster declaration that may impact water supplies • State or MWD declaration due to drought or system maintenance • LVMWD Board of Directors determination • Unplanned LVMWD water system maintenance requiring more time to repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand public information campaign • Step up enforcement of conservation measures • Continue previous actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-double voluntary conservation • Continue previous actions

Table 1. Water Shortage Stage Triggers and Key Actions

Water Shortage Stage	Triggers	District Actions	Customer Actions
<p>Stage 3: Water Shortage Emergency</p> <p>20-50% water shortage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state or local disaster declaration that may impact water supplies • State or MWD determination due to drought or significant system failure <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State outdoor irrigation restriction; and/or 2. MWD Water Supply Allocation Plan (5% to 50% of baseline allocation) • LVMWD Board of Directors determination • LVMWD water system failure or emergency (Westlake Filtration Plan, Dam and/or Backbone System) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensify public information campaign • Expand enforcement of conservation measures • Implement State and MWD required reduction using a drought factor for water budgets. • Send direct notices to all customers • Provide regular media, city councils and County briefings • Activate emergency connections with mutual aid agencies • Continue previous actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate programming of irrigation controller • Continue previous actions
<p>Stage 4: Critical Water Shortage Emergency</p> <p>50%+ water shortage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state or local disaster declaration that may impact water supplies • Sacramento Delta/State Water Project failure • State or MWD determination due to drought or significant system failure • LVMWD Board of Directors determination • Natural or human-caused catastrophe disrupting delivery of water to, or within the service area • Severe LVMWD water system failure (Westlake Filtration Plan, Dam and Backbone System) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement crisis communications plan • Activate Emergency Operations Center • Implement State and MWD required reduction using a drought factor for outdoor water budgets and reduction in indoor water budget if necessary • Coordinate actions with regulatory agencies • Coordinate actions with public safety agencies to address enforcement and fire protection issues • Install flow restrictors on meters as necessary • Terminate potable water supplement to the recycled water system • Recall all temporary meters and activate water fill stations • Continue previous actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminate outdoor water use for irrigation, pools and fountains • Water may only be used outdoors for public health and safety purposes • Be on alert for Boil Water Orders if they become necessary • Continue previous actions

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