



Frequently Asked Questions

CA Water Conservation Emergency Regulations

What are the new California water conservation emergency regulations?

On May 24, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), in response to Governor Newsom's [Executive Order N-7-22](#), adopted [emergency regulations](#) to address severe drought conditions across California. The regulations require specific actions by CA water suppliers and impose a temporary ban on the use of potable water for irrigating nonfunctional turf in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

When will the regulations take effect?

The regulations are effective June 16, 2022.

How will the Order affect Goleta Water District customers?

The Goleta Water District (District) is required to implement certain water shortage response actions pursuant to its [Water Shortage Contingency Plan](#), including asking all customers to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20%.

Commercial, Landscape Irrigation, and Institutional customers will also be prohibited from irrigating "nonfunctional" turf. This includes non-functional turf on property owned by a homeowners' association (but not residences). The regulation does not ban the irrigation of trees or other non-turf plantings. Non-grass lawn alternatives are also exempt.

What is nonfunctional turf?

The State regulations define nonfunctional turf as 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. Residential customers are also excluded. Additional details, including [FAQs](#), are available on the State [website](#).

How will the District help customers save water?

The District provides customers with water conservation tips and suggestions, discourages excessive outdoor watering, identifies and notifies customers of possible leaks, and enforces prohibition of water theft, water waste and CII nonfunctional turf irrigation. Customers are also encouraged to report water waste or leaks via the District's [website](#) or by phone: (805) 964-6761

What is considered "water waste"?

The District Code states that "no customer shall willfully or negligently permit leaks or wasteful use" of water served by the District. (District Code 6.20.070) Additionally, permanent water waste restrictions adopted by the state and currently in effect include:

- Potable water may not be used to wash down sidewalks, driveways or other hard surfaces.
- Runoff caused by irrigation is prohibited.
- Vehicles must be washed using a hose with a shutoff nozzle.
- Decorative water features must use recirculated water.
- Outdoor irrigation is prohibited during and within 48 hours following measurable rainfall (¼ inch).

Will I be required to reduce my water use or risk facing penalties?

Not at this time. Customers water consumption reductions are voluntary under the State Order. Citations and fines will only be issued for violation of the prohibition on water waste and water theft, as well as for violation of the State's ban on irrigation of nonfunctional turf in the CII sectors.

My household already uses water efficiently. What more should I do to conserve?

Goleta Water District customers are among the most water efficient in the state, with the lowest per capita usage on the South Coast. Nearly half of the District's customers use less than 6 HCF a month, indicating primarily indoor water use. Recognizing that the biggest opportunities for water savings are typically outdoors, you can continue to do your part by checking for and fixing leaks. Make sure irrigation timers are not set to the default setting. Seasonally adjusting your irrigation can result in considerable water savings. Visit www.waterwisesb.org for more details.

Is the Goleta Valley experiencing a drought?

The District projects it will have enough water supply to avoid the need for mandatory water use restrictions in 2022, and has not declared a Water Shortage Emergency. However, the Goleta Valley has received only 64% of normal rainfall to date as of May 1 and is classified as experiencing "severe drought" (level 2) by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Santa Barbara County remains on the Governor's list of California counties experiencing drought and remains under a local drought emergency caused by drought conditions, as proclaimed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on July 13, 2021.

Learn more about how you can save water and money at www.GoletaWater.com.