Tyrrell County Water System Water Shortage Response Plan

In order to handle a water shortage in areas served by The Tyrrell County Water System the following stages of response have been adopted by The Tyrrell County Board of County Commissioners.

The Tyrrell County Manager shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his or her absence, the Water Superintendent will assume this role.

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The Tyrrell County Manager with assistance from the staff of the water department will implement the Water Shortage Response Plan. The activation of this plan will be announced directly to each water system employee by their supervisor. The water users will be notified with a note on their water bill, the local newspaper, signs posted at the water department and other locations, and an individual notice may be mailed to each user.

The water department staff will monitor the condition of the water system and report to the County Manager the findings needed to make a decision to implement the water shortage plan. These findings will also determine the term and the necessary stages needed when implementing the plan.

The following is a list of conditions and necessary stages in order to reduce the water usage of the Tyrrell County Water System:

# STAGE 1

**DESCRIPTION:**

The warning stage shall be initiated when the following conditions exist:

1. Less than two days elevated storage for more than three days in summer (June, July, and August).
2. Two days of storage that last for more than three days for the rest of the year.
3. If the Creeks Plant is inoperable.

The restrictions to be imposed are listed below.

# RESTRICTIONS:

1. A publicity campaign will be initiated using public media and other methods to inform the public of the voluntary water restrictions.
2. All water users which are provided water by Tyrrell County will be encouraged to practice the following conservation measures:
   1. Use shower for bathing rather than a bathtub whenever possible. Try to limit the time to four minutes.
   2. Do not leave water running while shaving or washing dishes.
   3. Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when fully loaded whenever possible.
   4. Delay new landscaping and seeding until a later date whenever possible.
   5. Limit existing lawn watering to only necessary for plants to survive.
   6. Water shrubbery the minimum required, reusing household water whenever possible.
   7. Limit car washing to a minimum.
   8. Do not wash outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, siding, etc.
   9. Install water saving devices in showerheads whenever possible.
   10. Install water saving devices in toilets such as water filled plastic jugs or commercially available units.
   11. Use disposable dishes when possible.
   12. We request that no pools be filled within the Tyrrell County Water System served area and absolutely no water will be sold for filling pools outside of the system.
   13. We request that contractors’ water usage be reduced where possible.
   14. Tyrrell County Water Treatment Plant is to delay plans to flush hydrants.

# STAGE 2

**DESCRIPTION:**

The danger stage shall be initiated when the following condition exists:

1. If one of the wells at the R/O plant is inoperable. The restrictions to be imposed are listed below. **RESTRICTIONS:**

1. It shall be unlawful to use water from the Tyrrell County Water system to water lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flower and vegetable gardens, except un the following conditions:
   1. Such watering is to be done by hand held hose, container, or drip irrigations system.
   2. Such watering is only allowed on Saturday and Sunday mornings between the hours of 6 am to 9 am.

In addition, the following will not be allowed:

1. Filling of newly constructed swimming and/or wading pools which have been drained. A minimal amount of water may be added to maintain continued operation of an existing pool.
2. Washing automobiles, trucks trailers, boats, campers, airplanes, or any type of mobile equipment including commercial washing establishments.
3. Washing down outside areas such as streets, driveways, service station aprons, parking lots, office buildings, exteriors of existing or newly constructed homes or apartments, sidewalks or patios, or water use for other similar purposes.
4. Introduction of water into any ornamental fountain, pool or pond or make similar use of water except to keep fish alive in an existing pond.
5. Serving drinking water in restaurants, cafeterias, or other food establishments, except upon request.
6. Use of water from public or private fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire suppression or other public emergency or water department need.
7. Use of water for dust control or compaction.
8. Use of water for any unnecessary purpose or intentional wasting of water.
9. Contractors are asked to reduce water usage to essential needs.
10. The use of single-use plates and utensils is encouraged in restaurants whenever possible.

# Eastern 4 H Center

1. Use paper plates.
2. Stop watering lawn.
3. Hands wash all pans and serving utensils.
4. Limit one shower per person per day.
5. Close swimming pool.
6. Stop washing vehicles.

# Tyrrell Prison Work Farm

1. Use paper plates.
2. Stop washing vehicles.
3. Limit one shower per day per inmate.
4. Hand washes all pans and serving utensils.

# STAGE 3

**DESCRIPTION:**

The emergency stage shall be initiated when the following condition exists:

1. If the R/O Plant is inoperable.

The restrictions to be imposed are listed below.

# RESTRICTIONS:

1. Use of water outside a structure for any use other than an emergency, a fire, or use by the water department to maintain the system is prohibited.
2. Operation of a county source evaporative air conditioning unit is not allowed. An exception is made when health and safety are adversely affected.
3. Introduction of water into any swimming pool is not allowed.
4. Large industrial customers are asked to delay projects consuming large quantities of water where possible.
5. Whenever practical, fire trucks shall use raw water. (This should be determined by the Fire Chief).
6. All customers, industrial and domestic, shall be asked to cut consumption in half so that the minimum quantities required for health, welfare, and safety of the customers of the Tyrrell County Water System will be available.
7. Tyrrell County Water System shall investigate all other sources of water for use (both raw and finished) as a possible supply.
8. The use of water to clean dishes at any restaurant or eating establishment is not allowed.

# Return to Normal

When water shortage conditions have abated and the situation is returning to normal, water conservation measures employed during each phase should be decreased in reverse order of implementation. Permanent measures directed toward long-term monitoring and conservation should be implemented or continued so that the community will be in a better position to prevent shortages and respond to recurring water shortage conditions.

# Enforcement

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by Tyrrell County personnel and local law enforcement. Violators may be reported to the Town’s phone line. Citations are assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Water Shortage Level** | **First Violation** | **Second Violation** | **Third Violation** |
| Voluntary Reductions | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Mandatory Reductions  (Stages 2 and 3) | Warning | $250 | Discontinuation of Service |

Drought surcharge rates are effective in Stage 3.

# Public Comment

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment on the provisions of the water shortage response plan. First, a draft plan will be available at County Offices for customers to view. A notice will be included in customer water bill notifying them of such. Also, a notice of the draft plan will be published in *The Scuppernong Reminder.* All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by Tyrrell County’s Commissioners.

# Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the County Offices. All applications must be submitted to the County Offices for review by the County Manager or his designee. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within two weeks of submittal after careful consideration of the following criteria: impact on water demand, expected duration, alternative source options, social and economic importance, purpose (i.e. necessary use of drinking water) and the prevention of structural damage.

# Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Tyrrell County water shortage response plan will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total number of violation citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year’s seasonal data.

# Revision

The water shortage response plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances affecting water supply and demand, following implementation of emergency restrictions, and at a minimum of every five years in conjunction with the updating of our Local Water Supply Plan. Further, a water shortage response planning work group will review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to recommend any necessary improvements to the plan to Tyrrell County’s Commissioners. The Tyrrell County Water Superintendent is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.