

ARTICLE VII - Water Conservation Plan

Section 7.1 - Introduction

The Authority, in its mission to provide customers an adequate supply of potable water, have developed the following Water Conservation Plan (the “Plan”). The Plan has been developed to ensure and preserve one of our most precious natural resources.

The Plan addresses water shortage measures to include voluntary and mandatory conservation, water loss and accountability, and the responsibilities of the Authority, consumers, contractors, and volunteer fire departments in the effort to conserve water.

Section 7.2 - Declaration of Water Shortage

If it appears that water demand on the Authority water system may exceed supply and transmission capabilities, the Executive Director shall recommend to the Board of Directors that water conservation measures be implemented. The Executive Director, following consultation with the Board of Directors, shall issue a water shortage condition advisory requesting water conservation by consumers. If a Stage I (Voluntary Reductions) advisory fails to relieve the demand on the system, the Authority shall advance to a Stage II (Mandatory Reductions) or Stage III (Emergency Reductions) advisory condition. The Executive Director, following consultation with the Board of Directors, may declare any stage be implemented including all or part of a particular Stage. The use of reclaimed water, where available, will not be restricted under any declaration. However, reclaimed water is subject to availability.

The Authority will use the following methods of notification when a water shortage condition is declared:

- (a) ONWASA internal email to include member municipalities and staff.
- (b) Really Simply Syndication (RSS) feed.
- (c) Notices in all the Authority’s satellite offices and the main office.
- (d) Local radio, newspaper and cable television stations.
- (e) Notice in customer water bills.

Section 7.3 - Stage I Water Shortage Condition

A Stage I water shortage shall be declared when 50% of the groundwater sources are pumping for more than twelve (12) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period. If a Stage I water shortage condition is declared, conservation measures will be encouraged and recommended to include the following:

- (a) Limit car washing to once per week.
- (b) Voluntarily limit lawn and garden watering.

- (c) Do not wash down outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, parking lots, service bays, aprons, etc.
- (d) Do not leave faucets running while shaving or rinsing dishes.
- (e) Water trees and shrubs to the minimum required amount, reusing water or using rain barrels when possible.
- (f) Limit use of clothes washers and dishwashers and, when used, operate fully loaded.
- (g) Use showers for bathing, rather than bathtubs, and limit showers to no more than four (4) minutes.
- (h) Limit flushing of toilets by multiple usages.
- (i) Use disposable and biodegradable dishes and eating utensils.
- (j) Use flow-restrictive and water-saving devices.
- (k) Limit hours of operation for water-cooled air conditioners.
- (l) Temporarily delay new landscape work until the water shortage has ended.

Section 7.4 - Stage II Water Shortage Condition

If at least two (2) Authority operated-water storage tanks drop to ten (10) feet or less of storage, a Stage II water shortage will be proclaimed. It is prohibited for any person to use water supplied by the Authority water system in a manner that is inconsistent with the following:

- (a) Watering of lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flowers, and vegetable gardens is allowed twice a week before 8:00 am or after 6:00 pm.
- (b) You may not wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes or any other type of mobile equipment more than one (1x) time per week.
- (c) You may not wash 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 for other similar purposes.
- (d) You may not use water from public or private fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire suppression, construction, official utility maintenance or public emergency.

Section 7.5 - Stage III Water Shortage Condition

If the Authority issues a declaration of Stage III water shortage condition, it shall be prohibited for any person to use or permit the use of water from the Authority water system for any purpose hereinafter set forth until such time as the declaration of water shortage has been rescinded. In exercising the authority for declaring a water shortage condition, consideration shall be given to water storage levels and available sources of supply, available usable storage on hand, drawdown rates, the projected supply capability, outlook for precipitation, daily water use patterns and availability of water from other sources.

If any four (4) water storage tanks drop to ten (10) feet or less, then a Stage III water shortage shall be declared. It shall be prohibited for any person to use water supplied by the Authority water system for the following:

- (a) Outdoor landscaping, tree, lawn or vegetation watering.
- (b) Washing automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes or any other type of mobile equipment.
- (c) Washing down outside areas with water such as streets, driveways, service station aprons, parking lots, office buildings, exteriors of existing or newly constructed homes or apartments, sidewalks or patios, or for other similar purposes.
- (d) Using water from public or private fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire suppression, official utility maintenance or public emergency.
- (e) Adding additional water into any ornamental fountain, pool, pond or other structure making similar use of water.
- (f) Adding additional water into any recreational swimming pool, pond or other structure making similar use of water.

Section 7.6 - Plan Enforcement

Violations of this Plan can be reported by contacting the Authority through any of the methods posted on the website (onwasa.com). ONWASA shall, in accordance with the Authority's adopted Rate and Fee Schedule, impose civil penalties for violation of this Plan according to the following schedule:

- (a) 1st Violation – Warning
- (b) 2nd Violation – Fee Assessed to Water Bill in the amount double that of the bill containing the violation
- (c) 3rd Violation – Fee Assessed to Water Bill in the amount double that of the bill containing the violation and Discontinuation of Service

Section 7.7 - Variances

Application for variances may be requested from the Authority's satellite and main offices and from the website. . Criteria for granting variances shall include:

- (a) Impact on Public Health
- (b) Necessity of use
- (c) Expected duration of water shortage condition
- (d) Alternative water source options
- (e) Social and economic impact
- (f) Impact on water demand

Section 7.8 - Lifting of Restrictions Imposed During Shortage

Water shortage conditions will expire when the Authority deems that the condition which caused the alert has abated. The expiration, rescission or cancellation of a water shortage declaration shall be promptly and widely publicized using the methods provided in Section 7.2.

Section 7.9 - Measuring Effectiveness

The following protocols will be used to measure the effectiveness of the Plan:

- (a) Reduction in pump run times
- (b) Elevated tank levels maintained above ten (10) feet
- (c) Water Storage Tank recovery time
- (d) Reduction in average daily flow (ADF) demands
- (e) Reduction in peak day flow (PDF) demands

Section 7.10 - Responsibility

- (a) Consumer - Each consumer has the responsibility to prevent unnecessary loss of water from the system by repairing leaks in the consumer's water system which is defined as the point of delivery to the consumer from the public water system.
- (b) Contractors - Each contractor has the responsibility to record and report water usage associated with waterline construction and testing.
- (c) Fire Departments - Each fire department shall only perform Hydrant Flushing activities between October 15th and April 30th, a minimum of two (2) days or forty-eight (48 hours) notice must be given to the Authority prior to performance of the flushing activity and a copy of all hydrant flow data shall be provided afterwards. A Hydrant Flushing Sheet shall accompany all flow data.