

**Water Shortage Response Plan  
South Camden Water and Sewer District  
Updated October 30, 2023**

The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand and supplement existing drinking water supplies whenever existing water supply sources are inadequate to meet current demands for potable water.

**I. Authorization**

The Camden County Manager shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his absence, the Public Works Manager will assume this role.

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County Manager  
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Mr. Charles A Jones Jr  
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**II. Notification**

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and customers of a water shortage declaration: employee e-mail announcements, notices at municipal buildings, notices in water bills and on the Camden County website homepage. Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through PSA announcements on local radio and cable stations, and on the Camden County website (<http://www.camdencountync.gov>).

**III. Levels of Response**

Four levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The four levels of water shortage response are: voluntary reductions, mandatory reductions, emergency reductions and water rationing. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follow below.

Stage	Response	Description
1	Voluntary Reductions	Water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and improve water use efficiency; however, no penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions indicate a potential for shortage.
2	Mandatory Reductions	Water users must abide required water use reduction and efficiency measures; penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist.
3	Emergency Reductions	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity.
4	Water Rationing	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allocated to preserve human health and environmental integrity.

In Stage 1, Voluntary Reductions, all water users will be asked to reduce their normal water use by 5%. Customer education and outreach programs will encourage water conservation and efficiency measures including: irrigating landscapes a maximum of one inch per week; preventing water waste, runoff and watering impervious surfaces; watering plants deeply to encourage root growth; washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers; using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identifying and repairing all water leaks.

In Stage 2, Mandatory Reductions I, all customers are expected to reduce their water use by 10% in comparison to their previous month's water bill. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: irrigation is limited to a half inch per week between 8PM and 8AM; outdoor use of drinking water for washing impervious surfaces is prohibited; and all testing and training purposes requiring drinking water (e.g. fire protection) will be limited.

In Stage 3, Emergency Reductions, customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water use by 20% compared to their previous month's water bill. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is implemented.

The goal of Stage 4, Water Rationing, is to provide drinking water to protect public health (e.g. residences, residential health care facilities and correctional facilities). In Stage 4, all customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection. Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use.

#### IV. Triggers

The South Camden Water and Sewer District's water source is groundwater. The following measurements of well levels in relationship to pump intake levels trigger entry into corresponding water restriction stages. The wells run every other day for 14 hours each day.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Well Operating Conditions</b>
1	20% reduction in seasonal normal distance from static water level and pump intake
2	40% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake
3	60% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake
4	80% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake

### 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.

### V. Enforcement

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by S Camden Water and Sewer District Public Works department and police personnel. Violators may be reported to the e-mail contact listed on the county's website (<http://www.camdencountync.gov>). Citations are assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

<b>Water Shortage Level</b>	<b>First Violation</b>	<b>Second Violation</b>	<b>Third Violation</b>
Voluntary Reductions	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mandatory Reductions	Warning	\$250	Discontinuation of Service
Emergency Reductions	\$250	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service
Water Rationing	\$500	Discontinuation of	Discontinuation of

		Service	Service
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## VI. 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 for customers to view at the County Water Office; also a draft plan will be published on the Camden County website. A notice will be printed in all customer water bills to notify them of the draft and allow them to make comments. All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by Camden County Board of Commissioners.

## VII. Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the Camden County website and County's Office. All applications must be submitted to the county Office 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.

## VIII. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the S Camden Water and Sewer District 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.

## IX. 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. The S Camden Water and Sewer District WTP ORC is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.