

Water Shortage Response Plan
City of Belmont, North Carolina
January 28, 2010
(Revised January 9, 2015)
(Revised April 14, 2016) (Revised March 15, 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 City of Belmont 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 Utility Director will assume this role.

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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, notice at CityWorks, notices in water bills and on the City of Belmont website homepage. Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through *The Gaston Gazette*, and on the City of Belmont website (<http://www.cityofbelmont.org>).

III. Levels of Response

Five levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The five levels of water shortage response are: Stage 0, Stage I, Stage II, Stage III, & Stage IV. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follows:

Stage	Response	Description
Stage 0	Low Inflow Watch	A declared Stage 0 indicates a low inflow watch. During the period that a Stage 0 condition is in effect, the City will continually monitor all factors affecting the public water supply and will fully participate in the activities of the Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG), including monthly DMAG meetings.
Stage I	Voluntary	<p>Stage I. During a declared Stage I water emergency, the City will notify its water customers to request that the following voluntary water conservation practices be implemented for the public water system served by the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Watering of lawns, ornamental plants and gardens shall be limited to that necessary for plant survival only and should be limited to no more than 2 days per week. Household water should be reused for watering purposes to the greatest extent possible. b. Planting of new ornamental plants and seeding of lawns should be deferred until the water emergency situation no longer exists. c. The use of water for washing down outside areas such as driveways and parking lots should be curtailed. d. Faucets should not be left running while shaving, brushing teeth, or washing dishes. e. The use of clothes washers and dishwashers should be limited to the degree possible. These units should be operated with full loads. f. Washing vehicles should be limited to no more than 2 days per week. Hoses should not be left running while washing vehicles. g. The use of flow restrictors and other water saving devices is encouraged. h. The use of disposable and biodegradable dishes and cups is encouraged. i. Showers should be used for bathing and limited to 5 minutes or less. j. Filling pools should be deferred or limited to the hours between 9:00pm and 6:00am. k. Additional practices may be added at the discretion of the Water Plant Superintendent. <p>The City shall provide a status update to the CW-DMAG on actual water withdrawal trends as noted in the LIP.</p>

Stage II	Mandatory Restrictions	<p>Stage II. During a declared Stage II water emergency, the following mandatory water use restrictions shall be in effect for the public water system served by the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All voluntary practices listed in Stage I of this ordinance shall be mandatory unless stricter measures are indicated in this section. b. Residents will be allowed to use water for lawn watering or landscape irrigation no more than 2 days per week. They may only use handheld hoses with spring loaded nozzles. Professional and commercial landscapers, plant nurseries and pressure washing businesses with current City of Belmont privilege licenses may maintain operations using handheld hoses with spring loaded nozzles. c. Residential vehicle washing shall be eliminated. d. Planting new ornamental plants or seeding lawns shall be deferred until the water emergency no longer exists. e. The use of water for washing down exterior areas, including but not limited to buildings, driveways, and/or parking lots shall be prohibited. f. Public building, sidewalk, and street washing activities shall be allowed only as required for safety and/or to maintain regulatory compliance. g. Public commercial washing businesses, including those providing handheld washing nozzles may continue normal operations. However, the facility owner/operator shall ensure that water is not wasted. All drawing of water shall be prohibited. h. Restaurants and other food service establishments shall serve water to patrons only upon request and should utilize single serving utensils and plates to the degree possible. i. Commercial, industrial, and construction operations shall eliminate all possible waste of water. j. Newly constructed and drained pools shall be filled only on Wednesdays or Saturdays. k. Any practice listed above may be modified or additional practices may be added at the discretion of the Water Plant Superintendent. <p>The City shall provide a status update to the CW-DMAG on actual water withdrawal trends as noted in the LIP.</p>
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Stage III	Mandatory Restrictions	<p>Stage III. During a declared Stage III water emergency, the following mandatory water use restrictions shall be in effect for the public water system served by the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All practices listed in Stages I and II of this ordinance shall remain in effect unless stricter measures are indicated in this section. b. Residents will be allowed to use water for lawn watering or landscape irrigation no more than one (1) day per week. c. Restaurants and other food service establishments shall utilize single serving utensils and plates and shall serve water only at the patron(s) request. d. Large scale commercial and industrial water consumers and construction activities utilizing five thousand (5000) or more gallons of water per day shall achieve mandatory reductions in daily water usage of either twenty-five (25), fifty (50) or seventy-five (75) percent through whatever means available. The target reduction percentage shall be determined by the severity of the water emergency and shall be publicly announced as a part of the emergency declaration. The Water Plant Superintendent shall determine compliance with the daily usage reduction targets. Variances to this restriction may be granted to designated public health facilities including but not limited to hospitals and nursing homes. e. Drinking water taps or hydrant permits shall be issued or revoked at the discretion of the Public Works Director. f. The use of water for construction uses such as dust control shall be eliminated. g. The filling of newly constructed or drained pools is prohibited. h. Any practice listed above may be modified or additional practices may be added at the discretion of the Water Plant Superintendent. <p>The city shall provide a status update to the CW-DMAG on actual water withdrawal trends as noted in the LIP.</p>
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Stage IV	Mandatory Restrictions	<p>Stage IV. During a declared Stage IV water emergency, the following mandatory water use restrictions shall be in effect for the public water system served by the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All use of water for purposes other than maintenance of public safety is prohibited. b. Where the city system is functional, residential water use shall not exceed 300 gallons per day at each metered location. c. Where the city system is not functional, National Guard and/or other emergency service vehicles shall be utilized to distribute water for household use at prearranged locations within the affected area. Usage by individuals shall be limited to those amounts necessary to sustain life through drinking, food preparation and personal hygiene. d. Compliance for large scale commercial and industrial water customers shall remain the same as noted under Stage III or as directed by state public health officials. e. Any practice listed above may be modified or additional practices may be added at the discretion of the Water Plant Superintendent. <p>The City shall provide a status update to the CW-DMAG on actual water withdrawal trends as noted in the LIP.</p>
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IV. Triggers

A. City of Belmont, along with CW-DMAG

The triggers for the City of Belmont are based on the recommendations of the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG). The City of Belmont follows Low-Inflow Protocol (LIP) as found in the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement for the Catawba-Wateree Hydro Project. These protocols determine triggers for both increases and decreases in water restrictions.

B. Return to Normal

When water shortage conditions have abated and the situation is returning to normal, water conservation measures employed during each phase will be decreased in reverse order of implementation. Permanent measures directed toward long-term monitoring and conservation are evaluated by the CW-DMAG and are implemented by the City of Belmont as possible or required by LIP 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 City of Belmont Public Works Department and the City of Belmont Police Department. City employees (both Public Works & Police) will make patrols during various hours of the day to ensure compliance. Residents may report potential violations to CityWorks, Belmont Police, or any City employee. Citations are assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

Penalties. Any person violating the mandatory provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$100 for residential customers and \$500 for commercial or industrial customers. Each occurrence of a violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be considered a separate violation.

Discontinuance of service. Pursuant to the provisions of N.C. General Statute 160A-312, and this section, water service may be temporarily discontinued for willful disregard of this ordinance. All applicable penalty fees may be applied in the event of service suspensions. In the event of continued gross noncompliance with this section, removal of the meter and service will be deemed proper, and the service will be discontinued. Tap fees, deposits, and any other fees paid will be forfeited.

Adoption and enforcement of section provisions. Municipal customers, water corporations, or companies purchasing water from the City shall adopt and enforce this entire ordinance as a condition of continuing existing water sales agreements. Upon declaration of water emergency, such municipalities and companies shall be terminated for not enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

VI. Public Comment

The most current Belmont WSRP will be available for review at CityWorks & posted on the City of Belmont website (<http://www.cityofbelmont.org>). Customers may comment on water shortage response protocols at City Council meetings. These are held on a monthly basis. Customers simply needing clarification may contact CityWorks.

VII. Variance Protocols

Application for any water use variance must be made in writing directly to the City Manager. Variances are determined on a case by case basis.

Duration. During a declared mandatory water emergency (Stage II,III,or IV), the City Manager or his designee may direct that the issuance of zoning clearance permits and/or divisions of land that involve waterline connections or extensions or any upgrade in capacity for water usage be temporarily suspended for the duration of the water emergency.

Exceptions. Water connections to the water system owned by the City may continue to be made during a declared mandatory water emergency for the following facilities:

- a. Public schools satisfying the compulsory education requirements of the State of North Carolina.
- b. Public facilities for police, sheriff, fire or emergency medical services.
- c. Hospitals and nursing homes.
- d. Facilities of public utilities regulated by the State of North Carolina.

Misdemeanor. It shall be unlawful to make any water service connection, not subject to the exceptions set forth above, to the water system owned by the City during the time that zoning clearance permits and/or divisions of land that involve waterline connections or extensions or any upgrade in capacity for water usage are temporarily suspended. In addition to the civil penalties provided, any person, firm, or corporation who shall make such connection during such time shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished for a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$500.00 as provided in the N.C. General Statute 14-4.

VIII. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the City of Belmont water shortage response plan will be determined by assessing data as submitted to the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group. The City follows the recommendations of CW-DMAG & the rules of LIP.

The City Manager is updated weekly on water usage. Changes in water usage in relation to the restrictions of CW-DMAG & LIP are evaluated. The City Manager has access to historical usage data to evaluate the effectiveness as well.

IX. Revision

The water shortage response plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances, if the current plan proves to be ineffective, or a minimum of every five years in conjunction with the updating of our Local Water Supply Plan. Further, the plan will be revised if LIP rules change in relation to the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG). The Utility Director, or his designee, will be responsible for initiating any needed subsequent revisions.

January 9, 2015 Review and Revision:

- Updated water shortage notification outlets.
- Remainder of Plan still meets the goal of effective water shortage management.

April 14, 2016 Revision:

- Updated contact information.

March 15th 2023 Revision

- Updated contact information and replaced "City Hall" with "CityWorks".
- Remainder of Plan still meets the goal of effective water shortage management.