# Water Shortage Response Plan Town of Ramseur, North Carolina

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.

# Authorization

The Ramseur Town Water and Sewer Commissioner shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his or her absence, the Town Mayor will assume this role.

J. C. Parrish

Town Water and Sewer Commissioner

Phone: (336) 362-2593

Vicki Caudle

Mayor

Phone: (336) 736-9015

# 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 Town of Ramseur website. Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through *The Courier-Tribune* and on the Town of Ramseur website.

# Levels of Response

Five levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The five levels of water shortage response are: voluntary reductions, mandatory reductions I and II, emergency reductions and water rationing. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follows 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 I | Water users must abide by 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 | Mandatory Reductions II | Same as in Stage 2 |
| 4 | Emergency Reductions | Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity. |
| 5 | 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 between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00

p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; 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 average monthly usage for the most recent twelve-month period. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: landscape irrigation shall be permitted between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; 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, Mandatory Reductions II, customers must continue actions from all previous stages and further reduce water use by 20% compared to their average monthly usage for the most recent twelve-month period. All non-essential uses of drinking water are banned and garden and landscape irrigation must be reduced to between the hours on 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Additionally, in Stage 3, a drought surcharge of 1.5 times the normal water rate applies.

In Stage 4, Emergency Reductions, customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water use by 25% compared to their average monthly usage for the most recent twelve-month period. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is implemented and drought surcharges increase to 2 times the normal water rate.

The goal of Stage 5, Water Rationing, is to provide drinking water to protect public health (e.g. residences, residential health care facilities and correctional facilities). In Stage 5, all customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection, but not more than 50% of their average monthly usage for the most recent twelve-month period.

Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use and pickup locations for distributing potable water will be announced according to Ramseur’s Emergency Response Plan. Drought surcharges increase to 5 times the normal water rate.

# Triggers

Example triggers for the Town of Ramseur are provided below. The examples provided outline appropriate triggers for the Town of Ramseur’s reservoir system.

The following measurements of usable storage and intake levels trigger entry into corresponding water restriction stages.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Usable Storage** | **Water Level** |
| 1 | <91% | 1 ft below full |
| 2 | <83% | 2 ft below full |
| 3 | <75% | 3 ft below full |
| 4 | <67% | 4 ft below full |
| 5 | <10% | 6 ft below full |

# Enforcement

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by Town of Ramseur Police and Public Works Departments. Violators may be reported to the e-mail contact listed on the town’s website (www.townoframseur.org) or by calling Town Hall at 336-824-8530. 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 (Stage 1) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Mandatory Reductions  (Stages 2 and 3) | $50 | $100 | $200 |
| Emergency Reductions (Stage 4) | $100 | $300 | Discontinuation of Service |
| Water Rationing  (Stage 5) | Discontinuation of  Service | Discontinuation of  Service | Discontinuation of  Service |

Drought surcharge rates are effective in Stages 3, 4 and 5.

# Public Comment

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment on the provisions of the water shortage response plan. Notice of public hearing will be published in *The Courier-Tribune* and the draft plan will be available at Town Hall and on the Town of Ramseur website. A public hearing will be scheduled with notice printed on all customer water bills to collect comments on the draft. All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by the Town of Ramseur Board of Commissioners.

# Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the Town of Ramseur website and Town Hall. All applications must be submitted at Town Hall for review by the Town Administrator or his or her designee. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within four 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 Town of Ramseur’s 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 the Town’s 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 Ramseur’s Town Board. The Town of Ramseur Town Administrator is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.