

Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter August 2014



UPDATE ON THE DROUGHT

By Jodi Lauther, GFCSD General Manager
(from the 7/18/2014 Water Log - email newsletter)

On July 15, 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board voted to adopt mandatory water conservation measures for all Californians (that's you) and water suppliers (that's GFCSD). Many of the newspaper articles and news stations talk about a \$500 fine for violations and what is now expected for all of us. Here is my interpretation:

The Emergency Regulation, adopted by the State Water Board on July 16, 2014 will likely go into effect on or about August 1, 2014, following submittal to the Office of Administrative Law. The emergency regulation remains in effect for 270 days (approx. 9 months), unless extended by the State Water Board due to ongoing drought conditions.

Mandatory Actions by Water Users:

- Do not apply potable (treated water from GFCSD) water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures;
- Do not use a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
- Do not apply potable water to driveways, sidewalks, decks, etc.; and
- Do not use potable water in fountains or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.

The taking of any action prohibited in this section, in addition to any other applicable civil or criminal penalties, is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$500 for each day in which the violation occurs. Authority: Water Code §1058.5

Mandatory Actions by Water Suppliers:

"Each distributor of a public water supply shall within thirty (30) days, take one or more of the following actions":

- Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week; or
 - Implement another mandatory conservation measure(s) intended to achieve a comparable reduction in water consumption by the persons it serves relative to the amount consumed in 2013.
- Authority: Water Code §1058.5

The SWRCB could initiate enforcement actions against water agencies that don't comply with the new regulations. Failure to comply is subject to up to a \$10,000 a day penalty.

The Grizzly Flats CSD Board of Directors held a special meeting on Friday, July 25, 2014 and discussed these issues. **The Board decided to adopt the state's emergency regulations instead of instituting the District's conservation stages. That will be done at the next regular board meeting, scheduled for Friday, August 15, 2014.** It is necessary for us to conserve and do our part during this time of drought.

Our community has always responded to calls for conservation and we have seen dramatic reductions in customer demand when we needed it most. We are confident that we can reduce our water consumption and stop water waste in our community. **Please remember that the conservation actions above are mandatory.** In the unlikely event our customers fail to comply with the mandatory conservation items, GFCSD will use its own

enforcement tools. Our tools include: Issuing a written warning for the first violation, \$50 fine for the 2nd, \$100 for the 3rd. If a 4th violation occurs, the District may have to take stronger action (\$500 fine and report to local law enforcement agency or water service termination).

As a water supplier, we recognize that our community has very little water usage compared to areas with larger populations, lots of big lush green landscapes and lawns, and swimming pools. However, as summer gets hotter, I do see more and more temporary pools popping up around town. I also know accidents happen. Who among us has turned on the sprinkler and forgot it was on? Who had a child turn on a hose and it ran without your knowledge? Who has a toilet running or a dripping faucet and keep procrastinating on fixing it?

I know I have had those things happen in my own home, but it is extremely important that we put a stop to those things now. Set a kitchen timer to remind yourself to go outside to shut off your sprinkler. Fix those leaks. Pay attention to the water that goes down your drain as you wait for hot water for a shower or dishes. Can you capture that water and put it to use another way? Collect it in a bucket and use it to water your animals or plants. Use it to refill a toilet or a washing machine. There are many simple ways to conserve water. I recently purchased a couple of 5 gallon buckets at Home Depot for about \$3 each. My kids can refill their squirt guns and have a fun water fight with the water that would have just gone down the drain and it stops them from using the hose.

We appreciate your work to help conserve water. Overall we are doing well this year when compared to last year. Your efforts are making a difference! If you haven't started conserving water, now is the time to start!

Water Use Comparison

Daily Average Water Production (in gallons)

Month	2013	2014	Water Savings	
Jan	87,971	79,471	(8,500)	-10%
Feb	79,514	84,843	5,329	7%
Mar	83,835	70,961	(12,874)	-15%
Apr	96,100	86,003	(10,097)	-9%
May	103,703	94,208	(9,495)	-9%
June	133,397	123,889	(9,508)	-7%
AVERAGE			(7,524)	-8%

STATE DROUGHT GRANT SOLICITATION

The State of California is accepting applications for grants for projects that would provide drought relief and water savings. We have been working very hard to put together a submission for several projects we feel would help our District save water. The six projects we have proposed are:

- **Cathodic Protection Systems** - Our potable water storage tanks hold our treated water and keep our water lines pressurized and operating correctly. Some significant corrosion issues were discovered in our recent "Tank Coating Evaluation" done in July 2013. We expect to extend the life of our storage tanks by 10 - 15 years or more by installing these.
- **Air Release Valves on Eagle Ditch** - We have found that water flow is restricted in high spots on Eagle Ditch pipeline. Air pockets can take up to 1/2 - 3/4 of a pipe. By installing ARV's, it will increase water flows to our reservoir and help with our system's reliability.
- **Meter Replacement** - We estimate we have about 300 meters that are in need of replacement. Accurate meters are necessary for District operation.
- **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System** - This would allow us to quickly respond to leaks and water loss events in our system. The SCADA system would monitor the water levels in our potable water storage tanks and allow staff to access that information remotely and be notified immediately of any significant drop in tank levels.
- **Backwash Tanks** - Replacing our existing 40+ year old backwash tanks with one tank with equal or larger capacity would allow the District to reclaim water used for backwash and recycle clarified water back into the reservoir.
- **Conservation and Leak Detection Program** - This is a county wide program that could offer rebates to customers for water saving devices such as low-flow toilets and provide water loss audits for our customers and our distribution system that would help identify leaks that aren't visible.

Applications have been submitted to Department of Water Resources and they expect the award date to be October of this year. We will be waiting to hear!

