



CITY OF
ARROYO GRANDE
CALIFORNIA

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

**ARROYO GRANDE CITY COUNCIL DECLARES
STAGE 1 WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY**
Residents will be required to reduce water consumption

ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA

The Arroyo Grande City Council unanimously declared a Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency on May 26, 2015. A Stage 1 emergency was declared as a result of the ongoing severe drought conditions, low Lopez Reservoir levels and resulting reductions in deliveries of water from Lopez Lake. In addition, reduced groundwater levels are a continuing concern causing a reduction in groundwater pumping. These conditions combined with Governor Brown's recent Statewide water reduction mandate have contributed to the need for new mandatory water use restrictions and the adoption of a Stage 1 Emergency. This action will require all customers to reduce water usage by a certain percentage compared to the same billing period the prior year. Customers will be notified of their baseline before the new restrictions go into effect.

Arroyo Grande residential customers will be assigned a baseline water amount determined by the amount of water used during the previous year's billing period. Residential customers will be required to reduce consumption by a certain percentage based upon their billing tier: Tier 1 (bi-monthly usage of 0 – 18 units) reduce by 10%; Tier 2 (bi-monthly usage of 19 – 36 units) reduce by 20%; and Tier 3 (bi-monthly usage of 37 units or more) reduce by 30%. Customers whose use is 10 units or less will not have to decrease their water consumption, but must not increase their usage above their assigned baseline. This structure allows residents to choose how to utilize their water rather than mandate specifically how reductions are achieved. Commercial/Institutional customers with separate irrigation meter accounts will have to reduce water use by 25%.

Mandatory financial penalties will be levied on all water users who fail to reduce consumption in the percentages required, starting with a written notice of violation and concluding with a \$200 fine. One-time penalties may be waived by attending a minimum two-hour session of Water Conservation School, which will be conducted by the City of Arroyo Grande.

The Arroyo Grande City Council has long been proactive on water conservation efforts and has enacted policies that have significantly reduced water consumption while establishing methods of maintaining a long-term water supply. Although the Governor ordered a 28% water use reduction for Arroyo Grande, the City has already reduced water consumption 12% from 2013 to 2014, leaving 16% to be achieved in 2015. On-going mandatory conservation measures are also in effect including restriction on the days that outdoor irrigation of landscaping may occur and certain commercial uses of potable water.

For more information on mandates, rebates, as well as tips on water conservation, please visit the Arroyo Grande/Pismo Beach sponsored Water Conservation website at <http://www.thinkh2onow.com>.

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