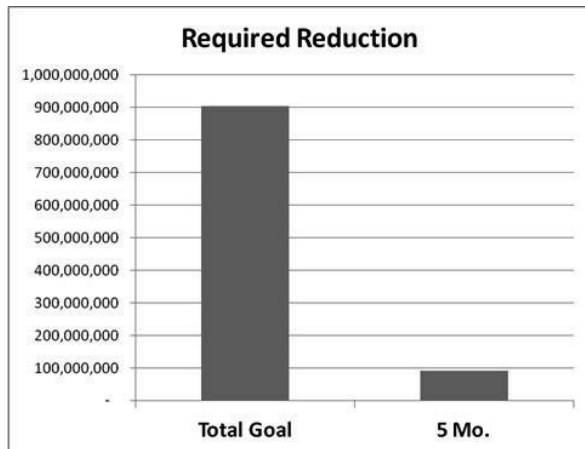




## State Mandates City of Madera Must Reduce Residential Water Use by 900,000,000 Gal. 28% of 2013 levels.



The City of Madera must reduce its residential use of water in 2015 by 904,471,876 gallons of water or 28% in comparison to 2013. In the first 5 months of this year average usage is only down 8.5%.

**Below are a series of frequently asked questions about current outdoor watering restrictions.**

### **Why does the City have to cut usage by 28%?**

The Governor's drought emergency regulation assigns each of the 411 urban water suppliers in the State with a mandatory water conservation requirement based on how much residential water usage occurred during the summer of 2014. Requirements for conservation range from 4% to 36%. The City of Madera's rate was established by the State Water Board as being 28%. If the City fails to achieve this conservation, the State has the ability to order implementation of specific conservation measures, issue cease and desist orders, and/or fine the City up to \$10,000/day.

### **Can I change the day I water on to a different day of the week?**

No. Very limited exceptions may be granted by the City if a customer demonstrates, in advance, that there are unique circumstance that would prohibit the utilization of the affected property for the purpose for which it is intended. An example would be that watering a soccer field on Saturday morning may not be practical if the field is scheduled for play that day and the schedule cannot be changed.

### **Can I run my drip system other than during my allowed watering day and time period?**

No. Except as noted below, all outdoor irrigation must occur on your designated watering day. Drip, micro-spray or any other method of water delivery is restricted to the allowed watering days and times. Extending the duration of "low and slow" watering on a single day will help ensure deep penetration of the water and should result in acceptable health of your plants. The only exception is vegetable gardens for personal consumption on a drip system are not restricted to days or time.

### **Can I use water from my shower, rain gutter, washing machine, etc. (gray water) on my outdoor plants?**

Gray water of up to 100 gallons per household per parcel per day of reused domestic water from showers, washing, etc. Gray Water may be reutilized for outdoor watering, subject to applicable health and safety regulations. Additional information on gray water systems can be found at <http://greywatercorps.com/about01.html>.

### **Are there any restrictions and filling my swimming pool?**

You should avoid draining and refilling your pool except as absolutely necessary. Swimming pools may be occasionally emptied for maintenance which cannot be achieved when full of water. Frequent emptying of a pool between May 1 and September 30 will be a violation. Routine use of an automatic pool filler is acceptable. The City recommends that you cover your pool to limit the evaporation of water.

### **What about my vegetable garden?**

Vegetable gardens for personal consumption on a drip system are not restricted to days or hours. Gardens that are watered with other mechanisms or produce food for more than personal consumption are restricted to the allowed watering days and times.

### **Can I wash down my sidewalks, driveway, or building?**

Washing down of exterior walls of buildings is permissible only for cleaning purposes in preparation for painting, stucco, or other maintenance. Using water to clean sidewalks, driveways, or other pavement is prohibited.

### **When and where can I wash my car?**

Washing of vehicles is permissible if a water flow control device is attached to the end of the hose and water does not waste excessively onto the street or adjacent property; non-profit car wash fund-raisers are prohibited while the City is on Level C, D, or E drought restrictions (City is currently at Level C).

### **Where do I report water wasting?**

Public Works Department (559) 661-5466, [jhernandez@cityofmadera.com](mailto:jhernandez@cityofmadera.com)

### **How pure is the City water?**

The City's water quality is very good. The water is tested weekly and an annual report that details all the tests and results is available on the City website at <http://www.cityofmadera.org/web/guest/public-works>.

### **Why do I see some public parks and school ball fields being irrigated on the wrong days and times?**

All users on City water are subject to the same restrictions. However, when the restrictions cannot be practically applied without harming the public good, exceptions are granted. For instance, watering a soccer field on Saturday morning may not be practical if the field is scheduled for play that day and the schedule cannot be changed.

### **Why are other local Cities allowed twice a week watering, but not Madera?**

Some cities have less water reductions to make than others. The Governor's mandate to reduce residential water consumption statewide by 25% is applied to every water provider differently. Municipal Water providers were mandated to reduce residential water consumption from 8% to 36% depending on their consumption history of August through October of 2014. The State Water Board mandated the City of Madera reduce residential consumption by 28% from 2013 levels. If cities are not

meeting their mandated reduction goals, the Water Board has the ability to directly mandate additional conservation measures, issue cease and desist orders, and fine the City \$10,000 per day.

Madera had been on two day a week watering, for over a year, prior to the Governor's mandates and the City has only reduced consumption by 9%, which leaves a 19% reduction to achieve. Outdoor watering is the largest component of residential water use (about 60%) that can readily be reduced. Moving to one day a week outdoor watering is Madera's next step in the progression towards meeting the required reductions.

Our water consumption is continually monitored and further adjustments may need to be made if necessitated. It is anticipated that the one day per week restriction will produce sufficient water reductions to avoid the State fining the City for not meeting the reduction goals.

### **Why is the City so slow to fix leaks in the street?**

Before the City or anyone else can dig in a street it has to obtain a clearance from the other utilities through what is known as USA Underground Service Alert or "811 Call Before You Dig." Leaks are addressed on a priority basis, using available resources. Leaks where a lot of water is being lost are addressed first, and smaller leaks may have to wait until crews can be assigned to fix them. If it's not clear that the City is aware of a leak, you should call (559) 661-5466 and let us know you see a problem.

### **What if I have new sod, plants, or reseeding?**

There are no exceptions for new sod, plants, or reseeding.

### **How do I find out how much water I am using?**

At this time you will need to call the Public Works Department at (559) [661-5466](tel:559-661-5466). The City is arranging a way to allow customers to log into the City's web site to see their meter readings on a daily basis, but the service is not available yet.

### **What can I do to reduce my water bill?**

Reducing the amount of outside irrigation is the most significant way to reduce the charges from your metered use. On average, 60% of the water used by a residence is used outdoors for irrigation, and watering your lawn is likely your single largest water use. Making sure you have efficient fixtures in your home, including shower heads, toilets, and washing machines will also help you conserve water and lower your bill.

### **What are the penalties for violations?**

The 1<sup>st</sup> violation is a \$75 fine;

The 2<sup>nd</sup> violation within a year is a \$250 fine;

The 3<sup>rd</sup> violation within a year is a \$500 fine;

### **My tenant or HOA agreement requires that I irrigate and/or maintain my landscaping—do I still need to comply with watering restrictions?**

Yes. Civil agreements do not void the State and local agencies' authority to regulate the use of water.

### **Are there additional conservation requirements placed on new development?**

Yes. New development must meet requirements set out in the State's Green Building Code which requires calculations and adherence of water budgets for new developments.