

# Adoption of Stage 3 Water Shortage - 20% Mandatory Water Use Reduction

City Council Meeting

June 29, 2021

*Jennifer Burke – Water Director*

*Peter Martin – Deputy Director  
Water Resources*



OUR FUTURE IN EVERY DRÖP

# Russian River Water Supply

- Diversion, storage and minimum instream flows governed by Decision 1610
- 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive dry year (2019-2021)
- Feb 2021 – Sonoma Water petitioned for reduced minimum instream flows in Upper Russian River





# Drought Response



- April 21, 2021 – Governor declared a drought emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties
- April 27, 2021 – Sonoma County adopted a drought emergency
- May 2021 – Sonoma Water petitioned for reduced minimum instream flows in Lower Russian River and committed to 20% reduction in diversions

Source: Press Democrat 4/21/2021

# Drought Response

- May 3, 2021 – the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) adopted a resolution urging water customers to reduce water use by 20%
- May 18, 2021 – Santa Rosa City Council adopted a resolution requesting 20% community wide reductions in water use through voluntary conservation



# Temporary Urgency Change Order

- June 14, 2021 – State Board Issued Temporary Urgency Change Order
- Water Year Type in upper watershed is **CRITICAL**
  - Minimum Instream Flow: Upper Russian River – 25 CFS (no change)
- Water Year Type in lower watershed is **CRITICAL**
  - Minimum Instream Flow: Lower Russian River - 35 CFS (reduced from 85 CFS)
- Requires 20% Reduction in Diversions from the Russian River compared to 2020 usage (Contractors to receive allocations) beginning July 1

# Sonoma Water Allocations

- Section 3.5 of the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply outlines how water will be allocated during a water supply shortage
- Restructured Agreement also provides that the Water Advisory Committee can, by unanimous vote, determine an alternate allocation methodology
- May 3, 2021, the WAC unanimously adopted a temporary allocation of water deliveries for this summer
- Monthly allocation up to 20% less compared to 2020

# What is a Water Shortage Contingency Plan?

Being prepared for water shortages & emergencies

- Required by law for urban water suppliers
- Defines shortage levels corresponding stages of action
- Identifies corresponding stages of action
- Updated every 5 years

Planned response actions to reduce demand

- Outreach & education
- Customer service & assistance
- Prohibitions & restrictions
- Compliance & enforcement
- Monitoring and reporting



# Water Shortage Stages and Reduction Targets

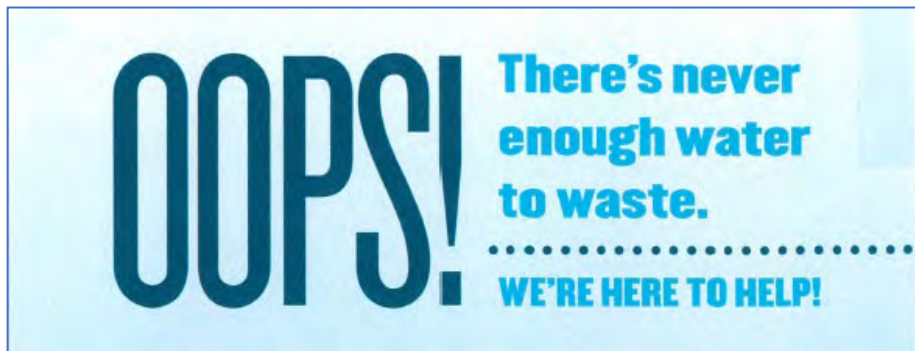
Supply Shortage	Shortage Stage	Reduction Target	Program Type
Up to 10%	Stage 1	10%	Voluntary
11 – 15%	Stage 2	15%	Mandatory
16 – 20%	Stage 3	20%	Mandatory
21 – 25%	Stage 4	25%	Mandatory
26 – 30%	Stage 5	30%	Mandatory
31 – 40%	Stage 6	40%	Mandatory
41 – 50%	Stage 7	50%	Mandatory
Over 50%	Stage 8	Over 50%	Mandatory



# Stage 3 Prohibitions

- Water Waste Ordinance always in effect
  - Prohibits leaks/breaks in water system
  - Prohibits Overspray and runoff
- Stage 3 –Prohibitions
  - Irrigation limited to 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM
  - Shut-off nozzles for hoses required
  - No washing hard surfaces (unless required for public health)
  - Restaurants only serve water upon request
  - Hotels and Lodging linens upon request messaging
  - No pressure washing with potable water

# Compliance & Enforcement



Progressive approach

- Alert customer to violation

- Offer technical assistance

- If needed, issue warning(s)

- If needed, apply penalty

Variance procedure available

# Shortage Charge and Use of Reserves

- Implementation of 7.5% Water Shortage Charge and Use of Water Enterprise Catastrophic Reserve allowed in Stage 3
  - Policy 000-57: Santa Rosa Water Reserve Policy provides for catastrophic reserves to be used to offset revenue lost due to mandatory water restrictions
  - Assists in protecting financial condition of the utility due to reduced revenue and increased expenses
- Water Shortage Charge not needed at this time and unlikely Catastrophic Reserve will need to be used at this time
  - FY 21/22 Budget - Reductions in water use due to drought incorporated into projected revenues and expenses
  - Sufficient fund balance to absorb projected reduction in revenue
  - Utilization of Catastrophic reserve will only occur if needed

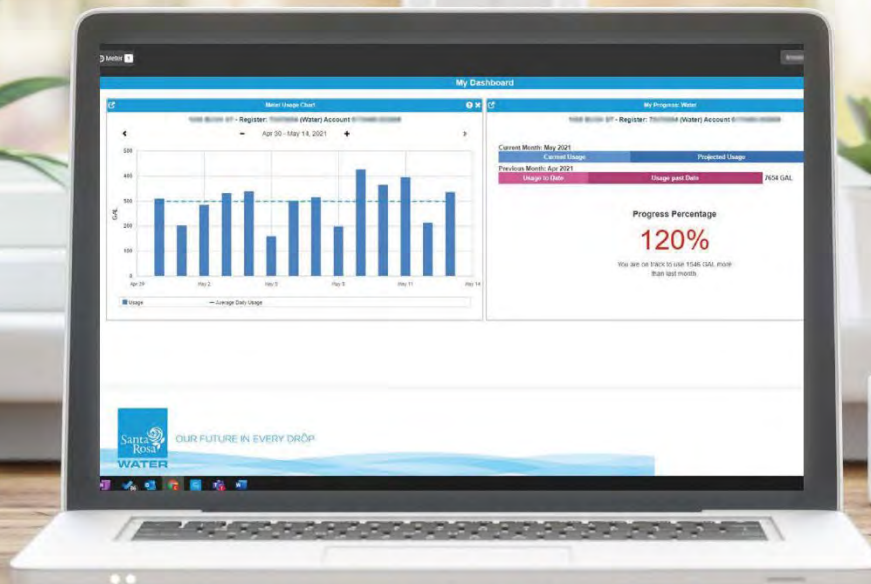
# Regional Drought Campaign

- **“Drought is Here. Save Water.”**
- Awareness campaign has been live for several months
- Multi-media, radio, digital and print advertising (bilingual)
- High-visibility signage and advertising in Santa Rosa





# NEW water smart PORTAL



## A new drought-busting tool customized just for you!

Do you know how much water you use, when you use it, and the best ways for you to save?

Santa Rosa Water's brand NEW WaterSmart Portal is here to help you track and analyze your water use online. To register your account, all you need is your customer number, account number, and last billed amount from your Water Bill.

- Track Hourly, Daily, Weekly, and Monthly Water Use
- Create Customized Notifications for High Usage
- Access Water Saving Tips, Tools, and Rebates

Sign up today!



[srcity.org/WaterSmartPortal](http://srcity.org/WaterSmartPortal)



## Indoor Rebates

- Efficient Clothes Washer (\$50-100)
- Free WaterSmart Devices
  - Showerheads, aerators, toilet flappers
- Recirculating Hot Water Pumps (\$100)

## Outdoor Rebates

- Irrigation Efficiency Upgrades (up to \$100)
- Cash for Grass (\$0.75/SF)
- Rainwater Harvesting (\$0.25 per gallon storage)
- Greywater Reuse (\$75 per fixture/\$200 per 1000 gal)



# Resources

WaterSmart tips, tools, and resources, including:

- FREE DIY home check-up kit
- FREE water-saving device
- FREE WaterSmart check-ups
- Rebates
- & More



# Ongoing Outreach

- Drought Website – [srcity.org/SaveWater](http://srcity.org/SaveWater)
- Social media, radio, digital and print ads
- Direct Mail, bill envelopes and inserts
- Employee Education
- High visibility signage
- Report Water Waste
- Community Engagement







- June 12, 2021
- Very successful
- Estimated 1500+ “drought kits” provided to residents
- Two more events planned for Summer/Fall



# Additional Outreach

- Targeted outreach to commercial, industrial, and institutional, and irrigation accounts
- Focus on outdoor water use
  - Reduce Weekly watering times
  - Green exchange, irrigation efficiency, and grey water rebates
- Water Waste Patrols – ongoing since May
- Workshops



# Staff Recommendation

Santa Rosa Water recommends that the Council, by resolution:

1. Declare a drought emergency
2. Adopt Stage 3 of the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan
3. Direct staff to implement the water conservation program as defined by Stage 3 to realize a mandatory community-wide water use reduction of 20%
4. Authorize the utilization of Water Enterprise Catastrophic Reserve funds, if necessary .

# Santa Rosa Water is here to help you save!

For WaterSmart Resources, visit:

[srcity.org/WaterSmart](http://srcity.org/WaterSmart)

For the latest drought updates, visit:

[srcity.org/SaveWater](http://srcity.org/SaveWater)

