

Notice of State Water Resources Control Board Emergency Regulation to Control Water Use During Droughts

North Gualala Water Company has been ordered by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to notify its customers of the State Water Resources Control Board's (Board) restrictions and fines for violations of the Board's Emergency Regulations. This notification is being sent because California is in a drought and your cooperation is needed to ensure reliable supplies of water for your comfort and necessary use. *Many of the restrictions are already in place through our Mandatory Water Conservation Program (MWCP).*

The Governor issued an Executive Order on 4/1/15, mandating additional water use reductions. At this time the Board has not yet established the new mandatory rules. Once the Board acts, the Commission will follow suit and we will be notifying you of additional water use restrictions. In the meantime, the Governor's Executive Order mandated that the following restrictions are in full force and effect.

The following water use activities are not allowed:

1. Watering outdoor landscapes that causes water to "runoff" onto adjacent property, nonirrigated areas, private/public walkways, roadways, parking lots, etc.
2. Washing a vehicle, with a hose without a shut-off nozzle or other device that will immediately stop the flow of water when not in use.
3. Using drinking water to wash driveways and sidewalks.
4. Using drinking water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is recirculated.

On 3/17/15, the Board added the following restrictions:

1. No irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
2. Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request.
3. Hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.
4. Customers will be informed by their water utility when the utility is aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.

Violation of any of these prohibited or restricted water use activities may be punished by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each day in which the violation occurs. Note that MWCP violation fines are per violation.

Irrigation restrictions ordered by the Board are already in place through our Mandatory Water Conservation Program and remain in effect:

Use of water to irrigate outside plants, lawn, landscape, and turf areas more often than two times a week. Even-numbered addresses shall be allowed to irrigate such areas only on even-numbered days of the month, and odd-numbered addresses shall be allowed to irrigate such areas only on odd-numbered days of the month, except that this provision will not apply to commercial nurseries and other water dependent businesses where such restrictions would cause substantial financial hardship to the business. To increase efficiency of water use, any irrigation shall be limited to the hours of midnight to 9 AM and 8 PM to midnight on the designated even or odd day. Automated irrigation systems shall be programmed to limit the time that each irrigation station operates to no more than 10 minutes. The 10- minute time limit also applies if irrigation is done manually using a hand-held hose, however, the hose must be equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle. A 15-minute time limit applies if irrigating with soaker hoses or water drip systems. For any use of these methods, excessive irrigation that causes running water on surfaces outside of the irrigated area shall be deemed wasteful use and subject to fines.

Further information may be obtained from the North Gualala Water Company office:

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