

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION

BACKGROUND

According to the Utah Division of Water Resources 90% of Utah is experiencing “extreme” drought & conditions don’t appear to be improving any time soon with very little precipitation & record high temperatures throughout the month of June. The Governor has issued three executive orders related to the drought conditions. From the State of Utah Division of Water Resources website:

- *2020 was the driest year on record and one of the hottest. This led to record dry soils.*
- *Our snowpack was dismal (topping out at 81% and peaking 10 days early), and record dry soils soaked up what little runoff we received. As a result, streams statewide are flowing at less than 50% of normal.*
- *A dry April was followed by an even drier May, with less than one-half-inch of precipitation accumulated in valley locations.*
- *All of this means less water is getting to our reservoirs. As of June 1, statewide reservoir levels are 15% lower than this time last year, with 21 out of 42 of our largest reservoirs below 55%. Some reservoirs are doing okay but others could run dry this season.*

While the situation is dire, our customers should feel confident that Magna Water District is well positioned to respond to drought conditions with a majority (85%) of our drinking water supply coming from groundwater wells with good aquifer recharge. Wells are often more drought resilient than surface water supplies since groundwater usually recharges before surface water.

The District also continues to invest in the secondary water system which stretches our drinking water supplies by reducing drinking water use for outdoor watering. ***We strongly encourage all customers with access to secondary water to complete the process to connect to the system (especially during a drought).*** Current secondary water sources include a mix of surface water (Utah Lake) & shallow groundwater wells. In addition, we are finalizing a Water Reuse Plan for adding treated wastewater effluent to the secondary system. Reuse water is an extremely drought resilient supply of water & we look forward to bringing that online in the next couple years.

CALLS FOR ACTION

From Governor Spencer J. Cox:

“All indicators show this could be the worst drought year on record,” Gov. Cox said. “Utah state government is leading the way by cutting back on water use at all state facilities, but all of us — from private businesses to local governments to individuals — need to conserve water now more than ever.”

From the Utah Division of Water Resources:

“We don’t know how long this drought will last. That’s out of our control. But what is in our control is how we respond, and what we do as individuals, families, businesses, institutions, and industries to conserve water anywhere we can. With 60% of residential water used outdoors, look for ways to improve your outdoor watering efficiency.”

From Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (wholesale supplier of 15% of MWD drinking water supply):

“JVWCD’s planning, infrastructure, and supply sources are intentionally designed to sustain short-term drought conditions and will help us get through this year. Though JVWCD does not anticipate any water shortages or restrictions to its deliveries for 2021, effective drought responses will improve water availability for coming years. JVWCD supports and promotes the Governor’s recent executive orders that ask for water use reductions “

LEVEL 2 MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION

Although there is no immediate threat to District water supplies, the MWD Board of Directors support the Governor’s & others calls for action to respond to the drought conditions with more formal conservation measures & prepare for extended drought conditions. In our June 17th, 2021, Board Meeting, the board approved a change from default *Level 1 Voluntary Water Conservation* to *Level 2 Mandatory Water Conservation*. This change includes:

- **No outdoor watering between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm**
- **Days of the week limitations for outdoor watering:**
 - Wednesday, Friday & Sunday for street addresses ending in odd number
 - Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday for street addresses ending in even number
- **Four step enforcement procedure**
 - 1st Violation is mailed written Notice of Violation & conservation information
 - 2nd Violation is hand delivered Warning Letter with specific details of violation and remedial actions to avoid further violations including fee information for subsequent violations
 - 3rd Violation will be mailed notice of violation & assessed a Conservation Violation Fee (\$25)
 - 4th and each subsequent violation, mailed notice of violation & twice the amount of the Conservation Violation Fee (\$50)

Enforcement will begin in July following a 2-week noticing period. Please help us spread the word!

ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the *Level 2 Mandatory Water Conservation* measures required above, the following conservation measures are recommended:

- Prioritize watering for trees, shrubs, perennials & annuals before grass
- Limit irrigation of lawn areas that are not actively used to two times per week if possible
- Delay new lawn installations until Fall when the temperatures cool down
- Consider replacing existing lawn areas with low water use plants (flip your strip)
- Do not irrigate landscapes when it is windy or raining
- Raise mower blade height to 3 inches or higher

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 801-250-2118 between 8 am to 6 pm M-TH. or visit our website & submit a message at <https://www.magnawater.com/contact-us>. You can also sign up to receive email and text alerts at our website for the most current information. Thank you for doing your part to help us all weather this drought!

