

# SF Bay Area Drought - 2021

## DECLARATIONS AND MEASURES

### [A Note about Sonoma, MMWD and NMWD and where their water comes from:](#)

Beginning in 1960, the North Marin Water District, NMWD (which serves the Novato area) helped pay to construct the Petaluma Aqueduct, which also allowed water to be delivered to Rohnert Park, Cotati, and Petaluma. Through this action, NMWD became a full participant in the Russian River Project and helped make water delivery more affordable to southern Sonoma County communities.

In 1975, Sonoma Water and Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) entered into an agreement for 'off peak water supply.' Through this agreement, Sonoma Water sells water to MMWD during the winter and spring (off-peak periods, when other customers don't need the water). Through the years this agreement has been modified, and MMWD now gets some summer-time water and has helped pay for the construction of Warm Springs Dam.

Both MMWD and NMWD pay a per-acre foot charge for the water they purchase. In addition, the districts pay an 'in-lieu' fee that is equivalent to property taxes paid by Sonoma County taxpayers to Sonoma Water (Russian River Projects charge) and both pay a Russian River Conservation charge.

## [Sonoma Water](#)

### **Status**

County Board of Supervisors have declared a drought emergency.

This proclamation covers the entire Sonoma County Operational Area, including all nine cities and special districts. Under the state's emergency management system, the County serves as the lead agency for aid and coordination with these jurisdictions and the state through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

As of May 18, the agency has asked customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20 percent immediately. The Partnership is a collaborative of the following utilities: the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Cotati, Healdsburg; North Marin, Valley of the Moon and Marin Municipal Water Districts; Town of Windsor, California American Water - Larkfield District and Sonoma County Water Agency.

**Water Supply** comes from Russian River Watershed which is supplied by Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. Current supply levels 61% Lake Sonoma and 43.4% Lake Mendocino.

### [Water Prohibitions Currently in Place\\*](#)

The Sonoma Water website lists the following as current year-round restrictions in cities of Sonoma and Marin county:

- Washing sidewalks, walkways, driveways or other hard surfaced areas with a hose. Use a broom instead.
- Irrigation runoff to streets and storm drains from overwatering or sprinkler-overspray of landscapes.
- Using a hose without a shutoff nozzle to wash cars, boats, or trailers.
- Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measurable rainfall.
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water.

\*stay tuned as it is likely there will be further restrictions announced given the drought emergency announcement.

# Santa Rosa Water District

## **Status (more details on page 1)**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Santa Rosa City Council voted to have the district ask residents to voluntarily cut back water usage by 20 percent. On June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the city will hand out kits that include a bucket, high-efficiency shower heads, faucet aerators, shower and a shower timer, along with free advice at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in parking lot B at Brookwood Avenue and Bennett Valley Road.

## **Water Supply**

Primary source is the Sonoma County Water Agency whose reservoirs are at the lowest levels ever recorded for this time of year.

## NMWD

### **Status**

From May 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>, the district requests a 20% voluntary reduction in water use.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the district requires a 20% reduction of use until November 1<sup>st</sup>. On that date Sonoma Water will cut its water export to Northern Marin by 20%.

**Water Supply** Groundwater aquifer adjacent from the Russian River and an additional 20% from Stafford Lake.

### **Water Restrictions as of July 1<sup>st</sup>**

1. Overhead sprinkler irrigation is prohibited unless\*
  - if customer maintains a 20% reduction from 2020 water use,
  - if they irrigate between 7:00pm and 9:00am,
  - Must water only three days per week assigned by Monday, Wednesday and Friday for odd and Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday for even addresses.
2. Use of potable water from a fire hydrant - except for fighting fire, human consumption, essential construction needs or use in connection with animals.
3. Refilling a completely drained swimming pool and/or initial filling of any swimming pool for which application for a building permit was made after July 1, 2021.
4. Washing of privately-owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats at home.
  - Exceptions: if a bucket is used or a hose that has a shut off nozzle may be used for a quick rinse
5. Use of potable water for dust control at construction sites or other locations.
6. Watering any portion of a golf course with potable or raw water
  - Exceptions: tees and greens or if customer can maintain 25% reduction in water use compared to 2020.

### **\*Exemptions:**

Drip irrigation, container and hand watering

Customers using less than 300 gallons per day are exempt from the 20% reduction but must adhere to the 3 days per week assignment.

### **Questions or to report violation:**

District's Water Conservation Hotline at (415) 761-8944 or email at [waterconserve@nmwd.com](mailto:waterconserve@nmwd.com).



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## MMWD

### **Status**

Marin Water's board of directors adopted new mandatory water use restrictions.

The goal - a 40 percent reduction in overall water use districtwide.

As of May 5<sup>th</sup>, more water cut-backs have been mandated. See below. No separate restrictions on planting.

There is an option what they call a "variance" - needing more water. Email [variance@marinwater.org](mailto:variance@marinwater.org)

**Water Supply** 75% from Mt Tamalpais watershed and the balance from the Russian River water system.

Water reserves are currently at about 50 percent, the lowest level in 40 years.

This time of year, they are typically above 90 percent.

### **Water Use Restrictions \***

- Limit spray irrigation to no more than two days per week.
- Limit drip irrigation to no more than three days per week.
- Covers are required for all pools and spas to reduce evaporation.
- Do not wash vehicles at home. If you need to wash it, use a carwash that recycles water.
- No power washing homes or businesses.
- Do not wash driveways or sidewalks.
- Do not water outdoors between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Do not waste water. Flooding gutters is prohibited.
- Leaks must be fixed within 48 hours of being discovered.
- Garden hoses must have a shutoff nozzle.
- Beginning May 20, golf course irrigation is restricted to greens and tees.
- No watering grass on public medians.
- No using potable water for dust control, sewer flushing or street cleaning.
- No refilling or topping off decorative fountains.

## Healdsburg

### **Status**

On June 7, 2021, the Healdsburg City Council declared a State 3 drought emergency and implemented mandatory water restrictions. The goal - 40% reduction in water demand. Applies to all Healdsburg residents, businesses, schools, and City facilities, including parks.

**Water Supply** Lake Mendocino, which is down to 39% capacity.

### **Irrigation and Outdoor Use Restrictions**

#### **Both drip and spray irrigation are banned for both commercial and residential**

- Residential Customers are assigned a water budget of 3 hundred cubic feet per person per month.
- Commercial Customers are required to reduce usage by 40%.
- Irrigation of lawns (commercial, residential, industrial) is prohibited day or night.
- Automatic sprinklers and drip irrigation are prohibited.
- Hosing down driveways and hardscapes is prohibited.
- Washing personal vehicles is prohibited.
- New swimming pool permits will not be authorized unless water is sourced from outside Healdsburg's potable water system.
- Dust control, compaction, and other construction must use recycled water; potable water is prohibited.

**\*\*HAND WATERING IS ALLOWED SO LONG AS IT'S WITHIN THE ALOTTED WATER BUDGET\*\***

### **Restaurants and Food Establishments**

- Drinking water upon request only

**Leaks and Repairs.** Water leaks must be repaired within 72 hours of discovery or a city notice.



# EBMUD

## Status

April 27<sup>th</sup> the district announced a Stage 1 drought. This declaration normally allows the district to purchase supplemental water from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, as in previous droughts. However, the Bureau is expected to cut its delivery to the areas it serves by more than half, which is 25% of the contracted amount rather than the 55% announced earlier.

Water districts affected by the cut are Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

**Water supply is** from the Mokelumne River collected at Pardee Reservoir, 90 miles east of the Bay Area. The amount of snow and rain in the watershed is 54 percent of average and reservoirs are 69 percent full.

## As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, EBMUD is asking customers to cut-back voluntarily per recommendations below.

- Review our water use regulations prohibiting water waste that remain in effect. They include:
  - Outdoor watering that causes runoff of water onto non-irrigated areas like sidewalks, driveways or roads.
  - Use of a hose without a shut-off nozzle to wash a vehicle or boat.
  - Use of potable water in a decorative fountain unless the water is recirculated.
  - Use of potable water for construction, street cleaning or dust control where an alternative recycled water source is available.
- Check and repair leaks in toilets and irrigation systems.
- Adjust outdoor irrigation timers or manually water landscape three times a week or less, at dawn and dusk to avoid evaporation.
- Sign on to EBMUD's [web portal](#) to set up leak alerts and monitor water use.
- Install a sustainable landscape. EBMUD offers rebates for redesigns, irrigation upgrades, and more.
- EBMUD can help you to manage your water use. Visit [ebmud.com/watersmart](http://ebmud.com/watersmart).

# City of Calistoga

## Status

April 27<sup>th</sup> the district has declared a Stage II Water emergency. Starting May 1, residents and businesses will be required to conserve water. The City hopes that educating its citizens will limit overuse citations.

## Water supply to the area was cut by the State

The result is a loss of 25% of the area's annual demand. The City does not produce drinking water from its own supply but purchases it from the City of Napa since January 2021.

## Water Use Restrictions

- Outdoor irrigation with potable water only during the early morning hours, 2x/weekly.
  - With odd/even address watering schedule: odd addresses water Tuesday and Friday and even water Monday and Thursday.
- No outdoor irrigation on Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday with potable water,
- Irrigation may not spray onto paved areas and sidewalks.
- No non-commercial washing of privately owned vehicles or equipment except from a bucket and hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- No washing sidewalks, buildings, driveways, patios, or other paved areas with potable water.
- Run full loads only of dishwasher washing machine.
- No initial filling or draining of swimming pools with potable water.
  - Pools can be topped off only to prevent damage to pumps and equipment.
- The use of portable water in fountains or other decorative water features is not permitted, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Hotels and motels must prominently display a notice of option to reuse towels and linens.
- In restaurants, tap water can be provided to customers upon request only.
- Additional restrictions apply to newly permitted pools and spas and newly constructed homes.



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# St Helena

## **Status**

Customers asked to cut water use by 30%. Having already declared a Phase I in 2020 and Phase II last November, the City hopes to avoid Phase III.

## **Water supply**

Bell Canyon - its reservoir is at 43% of capacity, 25% which is reserved for firefighting and to maintain water pressure. Based on typical water consumption without conservation, Bell Canyon would hit that 25% mark in September. One reason for the water deficit was that some was used to fight the Glass fire. They are also allowed to draw water from the City of Napa.

## **Water Use Restrictions**

Residential customers mandated to cut back 25% on water usage

Commercial customers must cut usage by 10%

Each customer segment will be advised as to their water allocation.

## **Below is a list of business customer restrictions for Phase II**

- Hotels and motels must provide customers with option to not have towels and linens laundered daily
- Use of air-cooling outdoor misters permitted only if timer operated
- No watering on driveways or sidewalks; watering must not run-off to adjacent property
- No outdoor watering within 48 hours of measurable rainfall, or between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m
- Outdoor hoses in use must be fitted with a shut-off nozzle
- Landscaping must meet state water efficiency standards, and installing additional landscaping that requires irrigation is prohibited
- Water for dust control and construction is prohibited
- Water allotments in place. Contact the City for details.
- No new water connections.
- Irrigation-only water meter water allotments in place - contact the City for details
- Vineyards with irrigation-only meters restricted to 60% and 30% of current reference evapotranspiration in Phase II and Phase III, respectively - contact City for details

# City of Napa

## **Status**

Expected to pass announce mandatory water use cutbacks on Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup>, with a goal of saving 15%.

**Water supply** comes from Lake Hennessey.

## **Proposed Restrictions**

- Watering banned between 10-5pm.
- Irrigation on consecutive days to be banned except for newly seeded landscaping.
- No irrigation 48 hours after rainstorm.
- No runoff onto streets, sidewalks buildings and adjacent properties
- Vehicles only if hoses are equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
- Fountains would be required to be turned off unless the water is part of a recirculating system.
- No washing driveways and walkways except to deal with an immediate safety need.
- No draining and refilling swimming pools, except for repairs or correcting a chemical imbalance.
- Possible cuts or suspensions for surplus agricultural water customers.
- Requiring restaurants to serve water only upon request.



## SFPUC

### **Status**

SFPUC has no plans to mandate any water cut-backs, only to encourage conservation for residential customers and for its 1,600 irrigation customers to cut usage 10%.

## Contra Costa Water District

### **Status**

A statement on their website:

In spite of dry conditions Los Vaqueros Reservoir (their water source) storage is 79% full.

**Their conservation recommendations.** Included in a watering schedule brochure

