

## Regulation 117

### WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY

(a) **Declaration of a Water Shortage Emergency**

A Water Shortage Emergency may be declared by the Board of Directors under the conditions cited in, and pursuant to the provisions of, Sections 350 through 358 of the Water Code of the State of California.

(b) **Purpose**

The purpose of this Regulation is to provide such regulations and restrictions on the delivery of water and the consumption of water supplied for public use as will, in the sound discretion of the District's Board of Directors, conserve the District's water supply for the greatest public benefit, with particular regard to domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection. This Regulation is intended to be operative pursuant to a declaration by the Board of Directors that a water shortage emergency condition prevails within the area served by the District.

(c) **Implementation**

This Regulation and its provisions shall be in effect and shall be binding on the customers of the District's Water System with the full force of law immediately upon the adoption by the Board of Directors of the Inverness Public Utility District of a Resolution declaring that a water shortage emergency condition prevails within the area served by the District's Water System, unless said Resolution provides otherwise, and shall remain in full force and effect until the Board of Directors of the Inverness Public Utility District declares an end to the water shortage emergency. In its declaration of a water shortage emergency, the Board of Directors may provide for regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water other than as provided for in this Regulation, or in addition to the regulations and restrictions provided for in this Regulation; it may also exempt enumerated provisions of this Regulation from being placed in effect during a declared water shortage emergency.

(d) **Limited Effectiveness**

The provisions of this Regulation shall be not be effective or applicable when no duly declared water shortage emergency is in effect in the District.

(e) **New Service Connections**

At any time a water shortage emergency is in effect, the Water System may continue to receive, accept, and process applications for New Service Connections. However, the Water System shall not provide the physical connection to a system main nor install the meter for a New Service Connection the application for which was received while a declared water shortage emergency was in effect. Such connection and meter installation shall be provided only after the water shortage emergency has been duly declared ended.

(f) **Four-Stage Program**

The District's program to conserve the public water supply during a water shortage emergency shall consist of the four stages detailed in subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) below. These stages shall be implemented as provided for in paragraph (g) below.

(1) **Stage 1: General Conservation and Prohibition of Nonessential Uses of Water**

When Stage 1 is in effect, the Water System shall implement a program of encouraging customers to conserve water and informing them of the need to reduce water usage. In addition, the following non-essential uses of water shall be prohibited during Stage 1:

- a. Any use of water in conjunction with installation of landscaping at any site of new or substantial remodeling construction, except as necessary for erosion control and dust control.

- b. Use of water through any service when the customer or the owner of the premises is aware of, or should have cause to be aware of, any broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system, and the customer or owner has failed to effect necessary repairs within ten (10) days.
- c. Use of water which results in flooding or runoff into a gutter, street, roadway, or elsewhere of similar nature.
- d. Use of water through a hose not equipped with a positive shutoff mechanism for washing cars, busses, boats, trailers, or any other types of vehicles.
- e. Use of water through a hose for washing the exteriors of buildings or structures, or for washing sidewalks, driveways, patios, parking lots, athletic or game courts (such as tennis courts), or other hard-surfaced outdoor areas.
- f. Use of water for filling any new swimming pool or for refilling any existing swimming pool, except for reasonable "topping off" or reasonable backwashing-to-waste of existing swimming pools at intervals of not less than fourteen (14) days.
- g. Use of water to clean, fill, or maintain levels in decorative fountains, pools, or ponds exceeding one hundred (100) gallons capacity, except as minimally necessary to maintain existing piscine life.
- h. Use of water for construction purposes, such as consolidating backfill, unless no other source of water or method is reasonably available to be used, and a permit for said use has been issued by the General Manager of the Inverness Public Utility District.
- i. Service of water to a customer by any restaurant or food-service establishment except when requested by the customer.
- j. Use of water without a permit issued by the General Manager to fill any privately-owned water storage tank exceeding one hundred (100) gallons capacity unless said tank is directly online in and an integral part of the customer's water service connection.

**(2) Stage 2: Prohibitions on Outdoor Uses of Water and/or Restrictions on When Outdoor Watering Is Permitted**

In addition to the provisions of Stage 1, which shall remain in effect during Stage 2, Stage 2 shall consist of such restrictions on outdoor uses of water as in the judgment of the General Manager are necessary to conserve the District's water supply for essential uses. Any or all of the following restrictions on water usage may be placed in effect in any order or in any combination by the General Manager during Stage 2:

- a. Prohibition of use of water for washing vehicles (cars, busses, trailers, boats, etc.).
- b. Prohibition of use at any time of sprinkler devices for outdoor watering.
- c. Prohibition of use at any time of timer-activated automatic outdoor watering or irrigation systems.
- d. Prohibition of use of the public water supply to fill swimming pools, outdoor spas, or ornamental ponds exceeding one hundred (100) gallons capacity.
- e. Prohibition of outdoor watering on specified days of the week or month or during specified times of the day.
- f. Permitting outdoor watering only at specified times or on specified days or on a specified schedule, such as permitting outdoor watering on a schedule based on whether a property has an even-numbered or an odd-numbered address.
- g. Permitting outdoor watering only by handheld hose or by watering can or container not exceeding five (5) gallons capacity.

(3) **Stage 3: Prohibition of Outdoor Watering at All Times**

In addition to the applicable prohibitions of nonessential uses of the public water supply in Stages 1 and 2, which shall remain in effect during Stage 3, all uses of the public water supply for any type of outdoor watering shall be prohibited at all times while Stage 3 is in effect. Under unusual circumstances of unavoidable necessity and for the protection of the general public welfare, the General Manager may grant on a case-by-case basis permits for specified uses of water outdoors while Stage 3 is in effect.

(4) **Stage 4: Water Rationing**

In the event it is necessary to conserve an even greater portion of the public water supply than is achieved by implementation of Stage 3, the Board of Directors may impose mandatory rationing, either as provided for in Inverness Public Utility District Ordinance 82-1 or as provided for by other legal means.

(g) **Authorization to Implement Stages**

- (1) The General Manager shall have full authority to place Stage 1 in effect.
- (2) The General Manager shall have authority to place Stage 2 and Stage 3 in effect, provided that within five (5) days of placing Stage 2 or Stage 3 in effect the General Manager shall notify in writing each of the Directors of the circumstances which, in the General Manager's opinion, made it advisable to place the stage in effect, which notification to the Directors shall also be made available to the public; however, this requirement shall not apply when the stage placed in effect is lower than the stage it replaces. The Directors may, at a subsequent regular meeting or a duly called special meeting, rescind the General Manager's action in placing the stage in effect and may direct that a lower stage be placed in effect.
- (3) Upon adoption by the Board of Directors of a water shortage emergency declaration, the General Manager shall devise and implement a program to inform the public of the applicable provisions of this Regulation.
- (4) The General Manager shall devise and implement means of informing the public whenever a stage is placed in effect or a declared water shortage emergency is ended.

(h) **Enforcement**

- (1) The following penalties shall be applied in the event of a use of water that is in violation of this Regulation or in violation of a restriction on water usage that is in effect pursuant to implementation of this Regulation while a declared water shortage emergency is in effect.
  - a. First violation at a customer's service: An oral warning shall be issued upon detection of the violation, and a letter explaining the violation shall be mailed to the customer within fourteen (14) days.
  - b. Second violation at the same customer's service: A surcharge of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the water used in violation of this Regulation shall be added to the customer's service account.
  - c. Third violation at the same customer's service: A surcharge of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the water used in violation of this Regulation shall be added to the customer's service account and a flow restrictor permitting a flow rate of approximately one-quarter (1/4) gallon per minute shall be placed on the customer's service connection for a period of seven (7) days.
  - d. Fourth violation at the same customer's service: A surcharge of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the water used in violation of this Regulation shall be added to the customer's service account and a flow restrictor permitting a flow rate of approximately one-quarter (1/4)

gallon per minute shall be placed on the customer's service connection for the duration of the water shortage emergency.

- e. In addition to the applicable penalties above, the customer's service connection shall be turned off and service shall be restored only upon payment of a fifty dollar (\$50.00) service restoration charge if at the time the violation is detected there is no responsible adult present on the premises.
- f. In addition to the applicable penalties above, the customer's service connection shall be turned off and service shall be restored only upon payment of a fifty dollar (\$50.00) service restoration charge if at the time the violation is detected the person or persons engaged in the violation refuse to immediately cease the usage of water that is in violation of this Regulation.

(2) A customer charged with a violation of this Regulation may submit an appeal in writing to the Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days of notification of the violation. The Board shall conduct a hearing on the appeal within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal. An appeal must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of the surcharge in the case of an appeal of a second, third, or fourth violation. No flow restrictor shall be maintained on the service connection while an appeal is pending. If the Board sustains an appeal of a violation for which a service restoration charge was paid by the appellant, the service restoration charge shall be refunded to the customer. The decision of the Board of Directors on an appeal shall be final and binding.

(i) **Exceptions and Exemptions**

Applications for exceptions to and exemptions from provisions of this Regulation, other than as provided for elsewhere in this Regulation, may be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board shall conduct a hearing on the application within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application, and shall render a final and binding decision on the application within seven (7) days of concluding the hearing. Nothing in this Regulation shall limit or restrict any public agency engaged in providing emergency services from making any use whatsoever of the water supply for purposes associated with the provision of emergency services. Nothing in this Regulation shall limit or restrict the Water System itself from using water in any manner or fashion or for any use it deems necessary in order to operate the water system and maintain the public water supply.

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*Regulation 117: Adopted, July 2, 2001 (Ordinance 58-2001)*

*July 22, 2009: The reference in paragraph (f)(4) to Ordinance 82-1 as providing the mechanisms for imposing water rationing was superseded by Ordinance 78-2009, which provides mechanisms for water rationing that are to be enforced in the event of implementation of Stage 4.*