



Board Agenda Item Staff Report

Subject: Public Hearing on Water Rationing and Adoption of Resolution 259-2021 Declaring Activation of Water Rationing
Meeting Date: August 25, 2021
Date Prepared: August 20, 2021
Prepared by: Wade B. Holland, Customer Services Manager
Attachments: Resolution 259-2021 (draft); Ordinance 100-2021 (enacted); informational documents

Recommended Action: Conduct a public hearing on recommendation to implement water rationing; Consider staff's advice on need for water rationing; Adopt Resolution 259-2021 with Option 3 designated as the text for the Resolution's Section 8.

Pursuant to Section 2 of IPUD Ordinance 100-2021 (attached), enacted by your Board on June 23, 2021, staff is advising you that in our judgment there is a clear and present danger that the water supply for the IPUD's customers may soon become inadequate to service the existing demands and requirements of the System's customers without endangering maintenance of adequate reserves for human consumption, sanitation, fire protection, and preservation of the ecological health of the community and of the District's watershed. Accordingly, staff recommends that you declare activation of mandatory rationing in the service area of the District's Water System by adopting Resolution 259-2021.

This recommendation is based on the most recently available data for source availability and for demand:

Streamflows	57,600 gals/day
Demand	<u>64,100</u> gals/day
Surface sources deficit	6,500 gals/day
Wells	<u>5,800</u> gals/day
Net shortfall	700 gals/day

For the moment, this shortfall of 700 gallons per day appears to be temporarily manageable, in part because children are back in school (and some number of weekender families with school-age children who have been sheltering in place in Inverness since mid-2020 have now returned to their permanent residences, so those houses are no longer occupied fulltime). Historical experience tells us that we can also expect to see a reduction in demand once we get past Labor Day weekend. Another mitigating factor is the ban on use of irrigation systems is taking hold increasingly.

On the other hand, the availability of water from our surface water sources continues to drop from day to day, and we are estimating that by the end of September (at the latest) it will be necessary that average daily demand not exceed 60,000 gallons.

We are also working to get the never-used Well #5 in Third Valley operational (pursuant to overcoming some technical challenges and obtaining emergency permitting from State Water Boards), and we are in the process of contracting with tank divers to possibly locate and repair the leak in the 60,000-gal tank at Tenney. These two programs together could add something in the range of 10,000 gallons of additional water per day, which just might be sufficient to get us through until the winter (and the assumed arrival of at least some rain).

Thus, the urgency of instituting water rationing is not completely clear. On the one hand, we may be able to squeak by until winter without having to ration at all. On the other hand, any number of factors could send us into an emergency downward spiral at any moment with little or no warning -- such as arrival of a scorcher heatwave, a breakdown at the main treatment plant, inability to fix the leak in the Tenney tank, a glitch in being able to get Well #5 into operation, a major leak somewhere in the system, a large fire, etc.

Adopting the rationing resolution with a trigger for implementing rationing appears to be the preferable way forward. This approach would provide the District with flexibility to react quickly if necessary without “jumping the gun,” so to speak, by instituting rationing before it is absolutely necessary to do so. Simply deferring action on adoption of Resolution 259 is not recommended because the public noticing requirements would make it very difficult to move quickly if it suddenly becomes necessary to go to rationing and we do not already have a rationing resolution in place.

For these reasons, the draft of Resolution 259-2021 provides three options for the timing for activating rationing:

- Immediately (upon adoption of Resolution 259-2021, pursuant to Sec. 376 of the State Water Code)
- On September 1 (in one week’s time); or, on any other specific date the Board chooses
- Pursuant to a trigger based on the District Administrator’s determination that water consumption has resulted in an inability to maintain the storage system at 50% or more of capacity for seven consecutive days

Staff recommends the third option (“OPTION 3” in the Resolution).

RECOMMENDED RATIONING ALLOTMENTS

Staff recommends that the following initial usage allotments be set in Resolution 259-2021:

Residential customers (see the chart below)

Gallons per day per residential service (per meter)	50
Gallons per day per full-time occupant	25

Non-residential customers

Base-year (July through June)	2018/2019
Allowable percentage of base-year usage	TBD

Proposed daily usage allotments for residential customers. Residential customer accounts are being grouped on the basis of number of full-time occupants.¹ This enables each residential-service customer to consult a chart posted on our website (or distributed by email) to determine how many gallons per day are permitted for services in that group (compliance will be based on each service’s average daily usage over each two-month billing cycle). Assuming the values above as the rationing allocation figures when rationing first comes into effect, the following would be the daily allotments for residential customers depending on each customer’s rationing group:

Group	Description	Daily allotment (gallons)	Units per billing period (approx.)
R0	Inactive service	0	0 (none)
RB	No full-time occupants	50	4 (or 3,000 gals)
R1	1 full-time occupant	75	6 (or 4,500 gals)
R2	2 full-time occupants	100	8 (or 6,000 gals)
R3	3 full-time occupants	125	10 (or 7,500 gals)
R4	4 full-time occupants	150	12 (or 9,000 gals)
R5	5 full-time occupants	175	14 (or 10,500 gals)
R6	6 full-time occupants	200	16 (or 12,000 gals)
R7	7 full-time occupants	225	18 (or 13,500 gals)
R8	8 full-time occupants	250	20 (or 15,000 gals)

¹ As we process the Water Rationing Survey forms that have been returned to us, we will be sending each customer a postcard that tells them the group to which their service is being assigned.

Rationing protocol for non-residential customers. Staff has concluded that it is not realistic to come up with a single reduction percentage to be applied uniformly to all 18 of the District’s non-residential customers; please see the attached list of the 18 non-residential customers. The wording in Section 4 of the rationing ordinance (Ordinance 100-2021) provides flexibility to establish a percentage that is appropriate for each non-residential customer’s type of business or activity. As can be seen on the list, these 18 accounts include both some of the Water System’s smallest water users as well as all of the System’s largest water users.

For the three non-residential customers who typically use no more than 50 gallons per day, we propose to set their usage allocation to match the base allocation for residential customers (Group RB) -- i.e., each would be allotted initially an allocation of 50 gallons per day.

For the 15 non-residential customers who typically use more than 50 gallons per day, we propose that we consult with each of them to determine a mutually agreeable daily usage allocation (percentage of their 2018/19 usage) that we and they can both accept as equitable, in terms of enabling them to maintain their business, on the one hand, and ensuring that they are bearing their share of the burden of protecting the town’s water supply, on the other hand. These allocations would then be brought back to the Board for its concurrence. The ultimate decision on each such customer’s allocation would be up to the Board.