

NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 2, 2009
For Release: Immediately
Through: October 2009
For Info Call: Brandy Wood 467-5724
Subject: City of Ukiah Stage I Water Emergency Update

UKIAH, CA –The City of Ukiah is currently at a Stage I water emergency and anticipates that Stage II and/or a Stage III emergency can be avoided if all water users immediately adopt conservation measures. The City adopted conservation mandates and is encouraging voluntary conservation practices to be implemented by all water customers due to record drought conditions and a reduced flow from the Russian River which will begin July 6, 2009.

All customers should immediately attempt to use half of the water normally used during the summer months. The State of California is also asking all Mendocino County Water users to reduce water use by 50% compared to 2004 water usage. Most critically, is the need to reduce outdoor irrigation. All users should remember that it is precious drinking water that is being used each time a lawn is watered, or water is used outdoors.

The present mandates and voluntary conservation measures are hoped to be enough to get through the high use summer months. However, the city's water system may not be able to supply the quantity of water that is normally drawn in July and August, if water normally collected from the Russian River is not available. Without Russian River water, the city must rely on limited groundwater resources. Although the city is currently building 2 new wells under emergency conditions, these wells may not be fully functional in July to help supply the additional water that is normally used in the summer months. Therefore, all customers are urged to comply with both voluntary and mandated conservation practices throughout July, and further, to be prepared to comply with additional use restrictions if the city must declare a Stage II or Stage III water emergency. Immediate implementation of strict conservation practices can help prevent further emergency stages and mandates, and ensure that our critically low water supply can sustain our essential needs throughout the summer months. Listed below are the new mandates and the methods for implementation.

The City asks users to voluntarily limit use to 50 gallons per day, per person, per household. This is a conservative use of water. If that is hard to calculate, simply try to cut in half what the household would normally use in the summer.

These uses are now prohibited:

1. Use through any meter when the city has notified the customer in writing to repair a broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system and the customer has failed to effect such repairs within five days.
2. Use of water which results in flooding or runoff in gutters or streets (The city encourages the use of commercial car wash facilities).
3. Use of water through a hose for washing cars, buses, boats, trailers, or other vehicles in the public right of way or any other location that creates runoff in gutter or streets.
4. Use of water through a hose for washing buildings, structures, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas that creates runoff in gutter or streets.

5. Service of water by any restaurant except upon the request of a patron.
6. Use of water to flush hydrants, except where required for public health or safety.
7. Use for more than minimal landscaping in connection with new construction.

Enforcement of these mandatory restrictions would be progressive and could include:

1. Educational letter or visit.
2. Educational visit and warning
3. Installation of flow restrictor.
4. Shutoff and reconnection fee.

The City of Ukiah appreciates the cooperation of the residents in this matter, and will continue to release information updates throughout the summer. Additional water conservation information, including voluntary practices is available on the City of Ukiah's website at: www.cityofukiah.com