

MCCSD Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2021

Contact Person: Ryan Rhoades, MCCSD Superintendent

Tel #: 707-937-5790

Mail: PO Box 1029, Mendocino, CA 95460

Mendocino City Community Services District Declares Stage 4 Water Shortage Emergency

In 2006, the District developed a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to identify and effectively respond to the water shortages that regularly occur in Mendocino. With the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the District can assess the groundwater supply and the water demand of the town based on existing land use and the pattern of precipitation and groundwater levels. This information can be used to determine the severity of a water shortfall.

A Stage 4 Water Shortage Emergency was declared by the Mendocino City Community Services District Board at the Regular District Meeting on May 3, 2021. The Stage 4 Water Shortage is due to below normal rainfall recorded in the District. Total rainfall as of April 28, 2021, in Mendocino was just 17.76 inches, only 45% of normal rainfall.

The Stage 4 Water Shortage is considered a Severe Water Shortage Emergency. It is important for property owners, business owners, and residents to continue to conserve water. The District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan requires the following temporary conservation measures for a Stage 4 Water Shortage:

1. Rationing: Requires residents and customers to reduce their water use by 40%. For example, if a customer has a 200 gal/day extraction allotment, they are now required to reduce their water use to 120 gal/day.
2. Temporary moratorium on issuance of new Groundwater Extraction Permits for new uses or expansion of existing uses that would require a hydrological study.
3. Prohibition on aquifer pump tests and hydrological studies.
4. Landscape watering only by garden hose or use of a drip irrigation system between the hours of 7:00 PM and 10:00 AM.
5. Washing vehicles permitted only by means of a "bucket and sponge," and a hose with a shutoff nozzle.
6. Prohibition of hosing down of porches, sidewalks, driveways, and other hard surfaces.
7. No person shall use water through a hose to clean the exterior of buildings.
8. Prohibition on the refilling of hot tubs, swimming pools, fountains or ponds.
9. Restaurants shall not serve water to restaurant customers, except upon request of the customer.
10. All developed property owners must have a valid GWEP on file with the District office.

11. Owners and managers of hotels, motels, bars, restaurants, and other visitor-serving facilities are to display placards or decals promoting public awareness of the need for water conservation and/ or advising the public that waste of water is prohibited.
12. No potable water obtained from the MCCSD groundwater supply may be used for soil compaction or dust control during construction activities. All water hoses used in connection with construction activities are to be equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

Since we are now in a Stage 4 Water Shortage, the District will be exercising the right to issue Penalties or Violations to customers who do not comply.

1. First Violation: a written notice delineating the facts of violation and a reasonable period of time to make corrections where applicable.
2. Second Violation: A written citation and imposition of a Groundwater Management Surcharge of \$100.00, and a reasonable period of time to make corrections where applicable.
3. Third Violation: A written citation and imposition of a Groundwater Management Surcharge of \$250.00, and a reasonable period of time to make corrections where applicable.
4. Daily Violation Occurrence: Each day on which an Ordinance violation occurs shall be deemed to be a separate offense.
5. If a customer fails to comply the District Superintendent will take one or more of the following actions:
 - a) Give the person one additional written notice of the violation
 - b) Contact the Mendocino County District Attorney to initiate abatement proceedings as a Public Nuisance
 - c) Upon order of the Board of Directors, direct the District's Attorney to bring civil suit or other action to enjoin or abate the nuisance

Most residents and business owners in the community are aware of the limited water supply available to them from their individual wells, and virtually all (by necessity) have a strong water conservation understanding and ethic. Think of your neighbors, do your best to conserve, and hopefully we can all make it through another dry year.

Monthly meter readings are still required on the first of each month. If you are unsure of your current allotment or have any questions related to this change, please contact the District Office at 707-937-5790. A copy of the Ordinance is available on the mccsd.com website, or feel free to contact the Office for a Public Records Request.

Stage 4: 40% Allotment Reduction Scale:

<u>Type of Use</u>	<u>Normal Allotment</u>	<u>Stage 4 Allotment</u>
2-bedroom residence	200 gal/ day	120 gal/ day
3-bedroom residence	260 gal/day	156 gal/ day
4-bedroom residence	320 gal/ day	192 gal/ day
5-bedroom residence	380 gal/ day	304 gal/ day