

Stage 4 Water Shortage Emergency Declared
MCCSD Press Release
For Immediate Release

March 29, 2022

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A Stage 4 Water Shortage Emergency was declared by the Mendocino City Community Services District Board at its Regular Meeting on March 28, 2022. The Stage 4 Water Shortage is our most severe and is due to below average rainfall in the District, year to date.

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.

Rainfall is the primary source of groundwater recharge, and water levels in the area are strongly controlled by rainfall. Normal rainfall in Mendocino averages approximately 39.73 inches per year. Total rainfall at the end of as of March 29, 2022, in Mendocino was just 22.28 inches just 56% of normal. The District's monitoring wells also show lower than normal recharge to the town's aquifer due to the dry weather.

The District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan recommended declaring the Stage 4 water shortage which is considered a Severe Drought emergency. It is important for property owners, business owners, and residents to continue to conserve water and increase your individual storage capacity. The Plan requires the following temporary conservation measures for a Stage 4 Water Shortage:

1. Rationing: requires 40% reduction of all water allotments
2. Temporary moratorium on issuance of new Groundwater Extraction Permits for new or expanded development which increase water demand, and no aquifer pump tests or hydrological studies permitted.
3. No person shall use water through a hose to clean the exterior of buildings
4. Restaurants shall not serve water to restaurant customers, except upon request of the customer
5. Mandatory Groundwater Extraction Permits for all developed parcels within the District.

6. Landscape watering by garden hose or use of a drip irrigation system between the hours of 7:00 PM and 10:00 AM only.
7. Washing vehicles permitted only by means of a “bucket and sponge,” and a hose with a shutoff nozzle
8. No refilling of hot tubs, pools, ponds, or decorative fountains
9. Hosing down of porches, sidewalks, driveways, and other hard surfaces is prohibited

The Water Shortage Contingency Plan is designed to help residents and businesses to conserve and protect the water resources in and around Mendocino during drought. Since Mendocino’s water supply is primarily limited to a shallow, limited, and seasonally replenished groundwater aquifer, the Plan should help mitigate the effect of the drought condition. Please contact the District office if you have any questions about the current water shortage.