

Mayor
Lois Wynne
Mayor Pro Tem
Jeff Chedester
Council Members
Ray Madrigal
Eddie Neal
William Siegel



**Public Works/
Planning Department**

711 W. Cinnamon Drive
Lemoore, CA 93245
Phone (559) 924-6744
Fax (559) 924-6708

Staff Report

ITEM NO. 4-2

To: Lemoore City Council *FR.*
From: Frank Rivera, Interim Public Works/Planning Director
Date: July 2, 2015 **Meeting Date:** July 7, 2015
Subject: Urgency Ordinance No. 2015-06 - Amending Article E of Chapter 7 of Title 7 of the Lemoore Municipal Code - Water Conservation

Discussion:

In order to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board regulations and the Governors Executive Order mandating a reduction in water usage and requiring water conservation Staff is proposing urgency changes to the Lemoore Water Conservation Plan.

Below are some of the highlights for proposed changes to the Ordinance:

- 7-7E-1C-8 – Standard Water Conservation Measures: Car washes for fundraising events will be prohibited.
- 7-7E-9A – Level I Conservation Measures: Residents with drip irrigations systems will no longer be exempt from watering day restrictions.
- 7-7E-9B – Level I Conservation Measures: Hotels, restaurants and bars shall only provide drinking water to customers upon request.
- 7-7E-9C – Level I Conservation Measures: Landscape watering for municipal parks shall be reduced to two days per week.
- 7-7E-10 – Level II Conservation Measures: Landscape watering for municipal parks shall be reduced to one day per week.
- 7-7E-12 – Penalties – All penalties have been increased for second and subsequent violations.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

That the City Council, by motion, introduce, read and adopt the urgency ordinance implementing additional conversation methods for water usage within the City and make and approve the findings outlined in Ordinance 2015-06.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-06

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMOORE AMENDING ARTICLE E OF CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 7 OF THE LEMOORE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO THE CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

SECTION 1. FINDINGS

1. The Governor of the State of California has declared a State of Emergency to exist throughout the State of California due to severe drought conditions.
2. On April 1, 2015, the Governor issued Executive Order B-29-15, which directed the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), to impose restrictions to achieve a statewide 25% reduction in potable urban water usage through February 28, 2016.
3. These restrictions will require water suppliers to California's cities and towns to reduce usage as compared to the amount used in 2013.
4. On April 7, 2015, the Water Board issued a Draft Regulatory Framework, requiring Lemoore to reduce water usage by 32%.
5. The final Water Board regulations were adopted in May 2015, and became effective June 1, 2015.
6. The City needs to prepare for the mandatory reduction in water usage by amending the Municipal Code to specifically provide for the City Council to respond to a drought emergency by adopting a resolution mandating water usage limits on customers and penalties for exceeding those usage limits.
7. In order to meet the State mandates, the City need to begin providing notices to customers now and, before there is time to introduce, adopt, and have a regular ordinance amending the Municipal Code become effective.
8. In adopting this urgency ordinance, the Council finds that it is needed for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. This finding is based upon the State of Emergency declared by the Governor for drought conditions, the Water Board regulations that mandate Lemoore reduce water usage by as much as 32%, and the need to begin taking steps to meet that reduction in water usage before a regular ordinance can be adopted, all for the benefit of the community in addressing the drought, and as further supported by the preceding findings.

SECTION 2. URGENCY ORDINANCE.

Article E of Chapter 7 or Title 7 of the City of Lemoore Municipal Code is hereby to read as follows:

“ARTICLE E. WATER CONSERVATION

Sections:

- 7-7E- 1 Standard Water Conservation Measures.
- 7-7E- 2 Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Adopted.
- 7-7E- 3 Findings of Necessity.
- 7-7E- 4 Water Customer.
- 7-7E- 5 Application.
- 7-7E- 6 Exceptions and Exemptions.
- 7-7E- 7 Authorization.
- 7-7E- 8 Voluntary Compliance.
- 7-7E- 9 Level I Conservation Measures.
- 7-7E-10 Level II Conservation Measures.
- 7-7E-11 Level III Conservation Measures.
- 7-7E-12 Penalties.
- 7-7E-13 Compliance.
- 7-7E-14 Waiver.

7-7E- 1 Standard Water Conservation Measures.

- (a) Definitions: Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions shall be used in the interpretation and construction of this section:

DIRECTOR: The director of public works of the city of Lemoore.

PERSON: Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation or political entity.

WATER: Any water obtained from the water department of the city of Lemoore.

- (b) Application of Regulations: The provisions of this section shall apply to all persons using city supplied water, both inside and outside of the city limits.
- (c) Regulations: In the use of water supplied by the city of Lemoore, the following requirements shall apply:
 - (1) No person shall keep, maintain, operate, or use any water connection, hose, faucet, hydrant, pipe, outlet or plumbing fixture which is not tight and free from leakage, dripping or waste of water.
 - (2) No person shall allow excessive water to run or waste from his property onto streets, highways or adjacent property.
 - (3) No person shall willfully or negligently waste water in any manner.
 - (4) Outdoor watering for those with even numbered addresses will be permitted on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, while odd numbered addresses may water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Monday will be a day on which no outdoor watering is allowed.

- (5) The public works director may grant a thirty (30) day exception for new lawns not yet established.
- (6) Prohibition of draining of swimming pools with a capacity in excess of five thousand (5,000) gallons more than once every two (2) years, except for structural repairs or to comply with public health standards determined by the county health officer. Residents with private swimming pools shall file a written application for a permit prior to draining their pools with the public works department. The application shall include information as to reason for draining the pool and in case of repairs, the nature and duration of repairs to be made and the date on which the pool will be drained.
- (7) Washing of exterior asphalt or concrete areas is prohibited except for those businesses that are governed by the food and drug administration or state or county health department requirements that require these areas to be washed for health purposes. Documentation indicating such regulations must be provided to the director.
- (8) The use of water for washing cars, boats or other vehicles is prohibited without the use of a quick acting positive shutoff nozzle on the hose and the use of buckets for washing with water from the hose used for light rinsing. These regulations apply to residential customers. Car washes for fundraising events are prohibited.
- (9) Sprinkle, irrigate or otherwise apply water to any yard, ground, premises or vegetation on any day of the week between the hours of ten a.m. and seven p.m. during periods designated as "daylight savings time" (generally occurring between March and November).
- (10) Operate water fountains or other decorative water fixtures without recirculation pumps.
- (11) All new construction and remodeling or additions to habitable areas with a valuation in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) will be required to install or replace existing faucets and showerheads with low flow devices and toilets with ultra low flow units.

7-7E- 2 Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Adopted.

This section should be known as "an ordinance of the city of Lemoore adopting the California model water efficient landscape ordinance, California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 2, chapter 2.7" and any amendments thereto by reference. (Ord. 2009-12, 1-5-2010)

7-7E- 3 Findings of Necessity.

It is necessary to minimize the potential for water shortage through the practice of water conservation pursuant to the provisions of California Water Code § 375 et seq. It is further necessary to reduce the potential effect of a water shortage on the residents, businesses and visitors of Lemoore and to adopt provisions that will significantly reduce the inefficient consumption of water, thereby extending the available water resources necessary for the

domestic, sanitation, and fire protection of the community to the greatest extent possible. Nothing in this Chapter shall prevent the City from also declaring a water emergency pursuant to California Water Code Section 350, if circumstances warrant such a declaration.

7-7E- 4 Water Customer.

Water customer for the purposes of this chapter, shall mean any person, partnership, business, corporation, special district, public agency, or association or legal entity to which the City of Lemoore (City) supplies water or “user” of water supplied by the City.

7-7E- 5 Application.

This chapter shall be applicable to all water customers.

7-7E- 6 Exceptions and Exemptions.

- (a) Exceptions: The City Manager or his or her designee shall grant an exception from the requirements of this chapter for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) Water use is necessary to public health and safety or for essential government services; or
 - (2) Recycled water is being used; or
 - (3) Water use is necessary due to the medical needs of the water customer.
 - (4) An alternative water source/supply is available for use.
- (b) Exemptions: The City Council may grant an exemption to the requirements of this Chapter, with or without conditions, if it determines that a water customer would otherwise experience extreme financial hardship that cannot be mitigated. The City Council shall review any requests for an exemption from compliance with this chapter. A written request for an exemption must be submitted to the City Clerk a minimum of two weeks prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting at which the exemption is to be considered. If appropriate, the City Council may require the customer granted an exemption to reduce water use by other appropriate alternative methods. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, there shall be no right to further administrative review or appeal of the determination of exemption of the City Council. The City Council may establish an “exemption processing fee” by resolution.

7-7E- 7 Authorization.

The City Council may declare the conservation stage based on a determination made by the City Manager, or based upon any reduction in water supply or delivery that the City Council determines in its sole discretion necessitates water conservation pursuant to this Chapter. The City Council may determine and order water prohibitions and restrictions as outlined herein in the following levels:

Voluntary Compliance
Level I Conservation Measures

Level II Conservation Measures
Level III Conservation Measures

7-7E- 8 Voluntary Compliance.

At this level of the conservation plan, the goal is to inform the public of the pressing need to conserve water. This can be done through information and education measures, which can directly affect water-use habits of the City's customer base. While education alone may not produce sustained water savings like other measures, it can enhance the effectiveness of other measures. Water bill inserts, pamphlets upon request, partnering with local schools to encourage water conservation practices, creating workshops for local plumbers, plumbing fixture suppliers, and builders or landscape and irrigation service providers are all examples of education and information measures the City can implement.

The goal of this measure is to have residents and businesses voluntarily comply with best practice water conservation measures, with the goal of reducing average water consumption by 20%. Water tanks and wells will be monitored by the Water Department.

Additionally, landscape watering for municipal parks will be reduced from six to four days or less per week.

7-7E- 9 Level I Conservation Measures.

When pumping water levels drop 20% below the Baseline Measurement, the following restrictions shall apply in addition to or supersede the standard water conservation measures listed in Section 7-7E-1:

- (a) Reduce the number of days for landscape watering to two days per week. Even numbered addresses would be allowed to water on Tuesday and Saturday while odd numbered addresses would water on Wednesday and Sunday. No watering would be allowed on Monday, Thursday or Friday. Additionally, landscape watering would only be authorized before 10:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. on designated days.
- (b) Hotels, restaurants, and bars shall only provide drinking water to customers upon request.
- (c) No water customer shall permit water to leak on his or her premises. Such leak shall be repaired in a timely manner after written notification by the city, but in no case in excess of seventy-two (72) hours after notification.
- (d) Reduce landscape watering for municipal parks to two days or less per week.

7-7E-10 Level II Conservation Measures.

The following restrictions shall be applicable during a high water conservation alert as declared by the City Council and whenever a recommendation has been made by the City Manager in conjunction with the Chief Plant Operator of the Water Treatment Plant based upon a significant reduction or interruption in water supply or delivery that necessitates increased water conservation efforts:

- (a) All prohibitions and restrictions in Level 1 (section number) shall be in effect.
- (b) Reduce the number of days for landscape watering to one day per week, depending upon the type of irrigation and the address. The City would be divided into three sections: one section would be all of the area on the east side of Lemoore Avenue, another section would be the area north of Cinnamon Drive from 19 ½ Avenue to Lemoore Avenue and the third section would be the area south of Cinnamon Drive to the west city limits. Watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. is still prohibited.
- (c) The washing of personal vehicles is restricted to once per week, only on permitted watering days, and only with the use of the required quick-acting positive shut off nozzle.
- (d) Hotels are encouraged to implement laundry conservation measures by encouraging patrons to reuse linens and towels.
- (e) Landscape watering for municipal parks is restricted to one day per week and restrictions shall be implemented on Golf Course watering.

7-7E-11 Level III Conservation Measures.

In the event of a major earthquake, large-scale fire, or other so called “Act of Nature” which has or could have serious impacts on the city’s total available water storage or delivery capacity, whether storage capacities have been reduced or not, or in the case of an unanticipated significant reduction in city water supply, a severe water conservation alert shall be declared by the City Council.

- (a) All previous restrictions noted above in Level I and Level II shall be in effect.
- (b) Irrigation of landscapes is prohibited between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- (c) Landscape watering for municipal parks shall be limited to one day per week.
- (d) Swimming pool refilling or new construction swimming pool filling is not authorized.
- (e) The City shall discontinue washing city vehicles or equipment except for health, safety or critical maintenance reasons.
- (f) Restrictions on Golf Course watering shall be increased.

7-7E-12 Penalties.

- (a) No water customer of the City shall knowingly use, or permit the use of, water in a manner contrary to any provisions of this Article, or in an amount in excess of that use permitted by the provisions of this Article.
- (b) Unless otherwise provided, any water customer violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction, and each day or portion thereof such violation is in existence shall be a new and separate offense.

(c) Any water customer determined to be guilty of a first time violation shall be given a written reminder for compliance. Second and subsequent violations shall be punishable as follows:

(1) Standard Conservation Measures and Level I Conservation Measures

A written notice of such a violation shall be given and a charge shall be added to the water bill of such person as a onetime penalty as follows:

- (i) Second Violation – Twenty five dollars (\$25.00).
- (ii) Third Violation – Fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- (iii) Fourth Violation – One hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- (iv) Fifth Violation – A written notice will be given of a fifth violation and the consumer shall have a flow restrictor placed in their service until such time that they can assure the public works director that no more waste will occur. All costs, including overhead, for this installation shall be billed to the customer.

(2) Level II Conservation Measures

A written notice of such a violation shall be given and a penalty shall be added to the water bill of such person as a onetime penalty as follows:

- (i) Second Violation – Forty dollars (\$40.00).
- (ii) Third Violation – Seventy five dollars (\$75.00).
- (iii) Fourth Violation – One hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (iv) Fifth Violation – A written notice will be given of a fifth violation and the consumer shall have a flow restrictor placed in their service until such time that they can assure the public works director that no more waste will occur. All costs, including overhead, for this installation shall be billed to the customer.

(3) Level III Conservation Measures

A written notice of such a violation shall be given and a penalty shall be added to the water bill of such a person as a onetime penalty as follows:

- (i) Second Violation – Fifty five dollars (\$55.00).
- (ii) Third Violation – One hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- (iii) Fourth Violation – Two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
- (iv) Fifth Violation – A written notice will be given of a fifth violation and the consumer shall have a flow restrictor placed in their service until such time that they can assure the public works director that no more waste will occur. All costs, including overhead, for this installation shall be billed to the customer.

(d) **Determination Of Number Of Offenses:** To determine whether a violation is other than a first offense, only notices issued within one year after the date of the first notice will be considered.

(e) In addition to the above remedies, the City Manager or his or her designee is empowered, to enforce any or all of the following penalties:

- (1) Place a flow restricting device upon the water service;

- (2) Lock off of a water meter;
 - (3) Remove a water meter;
 - (4) Shut off the service connection;
- (f) All costs or expenses incurred by the city for enforcement of this section shall be borne by the water customer. No water service shall be limited or discontinued until the City Manager or his or her designee provides a written notice of intent to so limit or discontinue such service and the reasons for such decision, and further, provides such water customer notice of the right to request an administrative review and hearing pursuant to the procedures set forth in Title 1, Chapter 10 of this Code.

7-7E-13 Compliance.

The City Manager or his or her designee shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

7-7E-14 Waiver.

To apply for a full or partial waiver of the mandatory water conservation requirements to accommodate your disability, you must submit a letter explaining your need for additional water use based on your disability. Send your letter requesting a waiver of the mandatory water conservation requirements to the City Manager.

The City will consider each application for a full or partial waiver of the water restrictions on an individual basis. The City may request that you provide medical information to support your need for an exemption to the current water restrictions. Responses to waiver requests will be provided in 30 days. All waiver requests that have been granted are subject to review and cancellation. If any waivers are obtained based on inaccurate information, applications may be subject to fines and additional charges.”

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Urgency Ordinance shall go into effect immediately and be in full force and operation.

* * * * *

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced, read and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lemoore held on the 7th day of July 2015, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Mary J. Venegas, City Clerk

Lois Wynne, Mayor