



Evergreen
Water & Sewer
DISTRICT 1 ®

Flathead County Water District No.1
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RESOLUTION 2024-16
ADOPTING A WATER CONSERVATION USE ORDINANCE

Whereas, the Flathead County Water District #1 – Evergreen (“District”) owns and operates a drinking water supply system to provide water for residential, commercial, and industrial uses; and

Whereas, the District’s mission is to provides water supplies that are safe, reliable, and cost effective; and

Whereas, recent population growth, regulatory mandates for water storage capacity, and climate variability have resulted in significant increases in water demands; and

Whereas, increased demands are presenting challenges to the management of the District’s infrastructure in production and delivery of water supplies, particularly during irrigation months of March through October; and

Whereas, the District has contracted for a detailed study of its water supply system by Great West Engineering, which will identify system improvements and additions to meet increased demands (“Water Plan”); and

Whereas, the Water Plan will include a detailed Conservation Plan to assist the District in prudent management of its water resources; and

Whereas, the Water Plan will not be completed for at least 12 months due to detailed analysis and information gathering required for the comprehensive study; and

Whereas, in the interim, District Staff is recommending that the Board adopt a Water Conservation Use Ordinance with Guidelines, attached as Exhibit “A,” that encourage voluntary Water Conservation Practices and provide authority to the District Staff to impose Use Restrictions with related Enforcement Penalties (“Guidelines”); and

Whereas, after careful consideration, the Board has determined that the Guidelines are necessary to assist District Staff in managing the water system to meet increased demands while providing a safe, reliable, and cost-effective water supply.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved and Ordained that the Board of Directors of the Flathead County Water District #1 – Evergreen adopts this Water Conservation Use Ordinance with the Water Conservation Use Guidelines, Use Restrictions, and Enforcement Penalties in the attached Exhibit “A” and

Be it Further Resolved that this Ordinance is effective as of July 1, 2024.

Dated: June 19, 2024

By:  _____

B.J. Lupton, President

ATTEST:

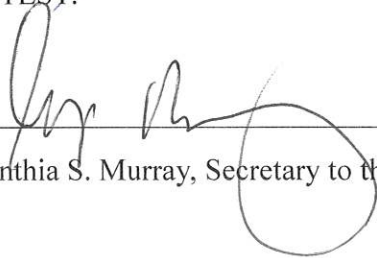
 _____
Cynthia S. Murray, Secretary to the Board



EXHIBIT A

WATER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES,
USE RESTRICTIONS,
AND ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES

Adopted by Board Ordinance 2024-16 and Effective July 1, 2024

During the summer irrigation months, the District's peak water use can skyrocket to 4.5 million gallons of water a day. That's nearly *quadruple* the amount used in the winter months. In the past our supplies have been enough to meet that demand, but between the District's rapid domestic and commercial growth and stringent DEQ storage requirements, the District anticipates supply issues this summer. Adding new water supplies is a slow process; although we are working hard to add more water supplies, they won't enter our system until the summer of 2025.

In the meantime, it is critical that we avoid overloading our water system with high seasonal demand. Water conservation is the best way to avoid an overload because it evens out peak times of demand throughout the day, reduces water waste and energy costs, and ensures that every District customer has access to essential domestic and commercial water without compromising emergency operations. Conservation also helps avoid rate increases necessitated by the costs of peak system use.

To avoid overloading the District's water system, we have developed a three-stage system of water restrictions to lower the demands on the water supply and respond quickly in the event of system failures. Unfortunately, while the stages are in effect, nonessential water uses must be reduced –or, in extreme circumstances—stopped altogether.

Stages of Water Restriction

Stage One: Normal Watering with Recommended Hours and Conservation Techniques

Stage One evens out peak demand during the hottest months. It enables the water system to keep up with consumer demand while meeting DEQ requirements for emergency storage.

- Effective as of July 1, 2024
- All irrigation should take place between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.
- For residences or businesses with programable irrigation systems, odd-numbered addresses should water between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. and even-numbered addresses should water between 12:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.
- Watering must not result in watering pavement or excessive run-off.
- Hand-sprinkling and car washing is allowed with positive shut off nozzles.
- Customers should limit indoor use through excellent water conservation habits like:
 - Doing full laundry loads
 - Turning off faucets while brushing teeth or doing dishes
 - Keeping shower times short and limiting full baths
 - Limiting how often they flush toilets

Stage Two: Restricted Watering and Seasonal Water Use

Stage Two comes into effect if the District's water system begins having difficulty keeping up with demand while meeting DEQ requirements for emergency storage

- Effective 2 days after written notice from the District (*see Notification section for publication methods*)
- Watering limited to two days per week and to the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- No watering allowed on Mondays.
- Residential *odd*-numbered addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Residential *even*-numbered addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays.
- All multi-unit, HOA, commercial, and industrial irrigation may occur on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- All water features/displays requiring water use will be shut off.
- Businesses requiring outdoor water use for operations should consult the District for assistance with limiting use and obtain District approval of a Water Use Plan in the event of Stage Three restrictions.
- Car washing only with positive shut off nozzles or at commercial car washing facilities.
- The District standpipe fill station will be limited to District customers who intend to use the water within the District's boundaries.

Stage Three: Total Water Restriction

Stage Three comes into effect if the District's water system cannot keep up with demand, suffers a system failure, or otherwise requires an emergency repair.

- Effective 2 days after written notice from the District (*see Notification section for publication methods*)
- All outdoor watering is prohibited for public and private gardens, lawns, trees, plants, Government or HOA parks, community golf courses and playing fields, and private and community swimming pools and spas.
- No washing of vehicles, boats, trailers, RVs, pavement, sidewalks, buildings, decks, patios, or sidewalks allowed.
- Commercial enterprises that require water use, such as nurseries, growers, and carwashes, must implement a District-approved Water Use Plan.
- The District standpipe fill station will be closed to use. As always, those caught using fire hydrants for other than emergency use will be charged for theft of services.

Penalties for Non-Compliance with Water Restriction Stages

Water uses regulated or prohibited in the restriction stages are considered nonessential. Refusing to comply with water restrictions on nonessential uses is considered wasting water. Wasting water is an offense subject to fines, penalties, and disconnection of water services.

Stage One Restrictions – Fines and Penalties

Although Stage One restrictions are largely voluntary, warnings and fines may be issued for blatant water waste, such as watering pavement.

- **First Offense:** Warning
- **Subsequent Offenses:** Each subsequent offense will incur a \$25.00 fine. Failure to pay the fine(s) within 30 days will result in a disconnection notice, followed by the disconnection of the user's water service. Reconnecting will incur the standard \$50.00 reconnect fee.

Stage Two Restrictions – Fines and Penalties

- **First Offense:** \$50.00 fine
- **Subsequent Offenses:** Each subsequent offense will incur a \$100.00 fine. Failure to pay the fine(s) within 30 days will result in a disconnection notice, followed by the disconnection of the user's water service. Reconnecting will incur the standard \$50.00 reconnect fee.

Stage Three Restrictions – Fines and Penalties

- **First Offense:** \$100.00 fine
- **Second Offense:** The second offense incur a \$250.00 fine.

- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:** \$250 fine and disconnection of the user's water service. The reconnect fee for a user who has three or more Stage Three offenses will be \$500.00.

Notification of Water Restriction Stage

When the District changes the water restriction stage, either to elevate or ease restrictions, we will notify District customers in the following ways:

- Media Announcement(s)
- Announcement on the District's website (www.evergreenwaterdistrict.com)
- Announcement on the District's Facebook page

Water restriction enforcement will begin the second day after the notice is posted. For example, if a Stage One notification is posted on July 1st, then enforcement of the new water restrictions would begin on July 3rd.

The surest way of receiving water restriction updates the day they come out is to sign up for notifications on our website, www.evergreenwaterdistrict.com.

Smart use and water conservation are the keys to avoiding most restriction stages. Try conserving water by:

- Using positive shut-off nozzles on your hose when washing cars or watering. Don't let your hoses run!
- Giving your lawn the right amount of water. Mushrooms, moss, settled areas in the lawn, and water flowing out from the lawn into the street are all signs that you're overwatering!
- Properly maintaining your irrigation systems and setting them to run for 10-15 minutes per zone.
- Watering at night and in the early morning when domestic and commercial demands are lower.
- Periodically confirming that your toilets, water heaters, pop-off valves, and water softeners work properly. They should not be passing water when not in use!
- Staying vigilant and inspecting your fixtures, house, and supply lines for leaks. A depression in your lawn can be a warning sign that there's a leak!

Check out additional Water Conservation Tips

www.evergreenwaterdistrict.com