



# DROUGHT DECLARATION NEWSLETTER

HERITAGE RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, 4870 HERITAGE ROAD, PASO ROBLES, CA 93446  
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APRIL 2014

## Stage II Drought Conditions

The State is in the third year of below average rainfall with last year a historic low rainfall year. On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency in California due to the drought conditions and executed a statewide water conservation campaign to make all Californians aware of the drought and encourage personal actions to reduce water usage by 20 percent. Hundreds of water agencies have implemented water use restrictions based on their own specific water supply issues. The drought is upon us and we must implement plans now to meet our requirements for supplying water for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection.



The District has held five public meetings in which drought conditions and water use restrictions were discussed and two direct mailings to customers advising of drought conditions and future water use prohibitions. In addition to these public meetings and mailings, the

state has implemented a strong public education campaign through media outlets notifying all Californians of the current drought conditions and suggested water savings options.

The traditional winter rain season has effectively ended. There is no rainfall projected over the next 30 days. The reservoir is currently at 727 feet of elevation (23% of storage). Monterey County is releasing water to the Nacimiento River at a rate of 60 cfs (current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's minimum release) and has filed a petition with NOAA Fisheries asking for a reduced flow of 25 cfs. This low flow (either 60 cfs or 25 cfs) has not occurred in the river during the peak summer water demand period since the drought of 1990-1992.

The low water in the reservoir and resulting low flow in the river will impact our ability to meet peak summer water demand. Water use prohibitions with the goal of achieving a 15% reduction in demand must be implemented now.

## Water Restriction Schedule

Beginning April 15<sup>th</sup> customers are required to limit landscape watering to three days per week according to the following schedule. Please locate your Tract below to find which days you are allowed outside watering. If you do not know your Tract, it is the first 4 digits of your HRCSD account number. (i.e. Account Number: 0000-00-0000)

Tracts: 0446, 0447, 0475, 0693, 1063, 1094, 1910

**Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday**

Tracts: 0050, 0424, 0452, 0474, 0720, 0721, 0999, 1990

**Wednesday, Friday, Sunday**

**ANY OUTSIDE WATER USE ON MONDAY  
IS PROHIBITED FOR ALL CUSTOMERS!**



**OUTSIDE WATER USE / IRRIGATION MAY ONLY  
OCCUR BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8 PM AND 7 AM**

## Stage II Water Restrictions

The Stage II Water Restrictions are focused on a reduction in outside water use and does not implement the water allocation per lot at this time. If this first attempt of demand reduction does not achieve the required 15% water savings, further actions may be taken by the District Board of Directors.

- ◆ **Is compliance with the landscape watering schedule mandatory?** Yes. Compliance with the irrigation watering schedule is mandatory under a Stage II Drought Awareness Water Use Prohibitions. The goal of watering restrictions is to achieve a 15 percent reduction in overall summer water demand. Customers are asked to cut back on summer water usage to achieve this target.
- ◆ **Are there other water use restrictions that are mandatory?** Yes, the District's Water Conservation Ordinance prohibits the following during Stage II Drought Awareness Water Use Prohibitions:
  - Potable water use for washing vehicles, boats, trailers or other types of mobile equipment , as well as driveways is highly discouraged.
  - Potable water use that results in excessive water flow or runoff onto an adjoining driveway, street, gutter, ditch or green belt is prohibited. Water which runs off of your parcel is considered "excessive" use.
  - Excessive use, loss or escape of water through breaks, leaks or other malfunctions in the customers' plumbing or distribution system for any period of time after such escape of water should have reasonably been discovered and corrected and in no event more than ten days after written notification by the Heritage Ranch Community Services District, is prohibited. Leak detection letters are sent along with the billing for the service dates which the leak occurred.
  - Any leak forgiveness policy that may be in effect is eliminated.
- ◆ **Why is District experiencing summertime water shortages and why are customers being asked to reduce water use?** The District depends on Lake Nacimiento Reservoir for 100% of its water supply. Due to historic low rainfall during the 2013/14 period, water levels in the Reservoir have decreased significantly. The District will need to take proactive conservation measures to offset the projected summer water demand and to protect against possible water outages in the future. Demand for water increases dramatically during the summer months due to outdoor irrigation as well as increased population from vacation homes.
- ◆ **How much water do I need to apply to my lawn?** As an overall guideline, it is recommended that residents limit watering to no more than 12 minutes per station for pop-up spray systems during the summer months. This is a guideline, and may need to be adjusted, depending on your irrigation system and site conditions.
- ◆ **What is the Heritage Ranch Community Services District doing to encourage water conservation?** The District is bringing back our Incentives and rebate funding for the replacement of high water using toilets, washing machines and lawn conversion to a WaterWise landscape. If you are interested in any of our rebate programs, please contact the District office at (805) 227-6230 to see if you are eligible.  
To see WaterWise landscaping ideas visit the interactive website [www.slowwaterwiselandscaping.com](http://www.slowwaterwiselandscaping.com).

## Customer Rebate Programs Are Back!

Heritage Ranch Community Services District will provide incentives/rebates for the replacement of high water use washing machines, toilets and lawn removal. Restrictions, terms and conditions can be found on the District's website at [www.heritageranchcsd.com](http://www.heritageranchcsd.com) or by contacting the District office for additional information.

Rebates Available:



Rebate of up to \$120 for replacing high-flow toilets



Rebate of \$150 towards purchase of Energy Star Water-Efficient Washing Machines



A rebate of up to \$500 for converting lawn to drought tolerant landscaping