

# **Drought Contingency Plan For a Public Water System**

**Leavitt Lake Community Services District  
471-830 Buffum Lane  
Susanville, Ca 96130**

**PWS #CA1810004**

**March 21, 2023**

## **Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the Leavitt Lake Community Services District (the District) hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water through an ordinance/or resolution.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered to be non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section X of this Plan.

## **Section II: Public Education**

The District will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of utility bill inserts.

## **Section III: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the District is located within the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the District has provided a copy of this Plan to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

## **Section IV: Authorization**

The manager, or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The manager or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

## **Section V: Application**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the District. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan may include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

## **Section VI: Definitions**

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

**Aesthetic water use:** water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

**Commercial and institutional water use:** water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as schools, hospitals, clinics, retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

**Conservation:** those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water and improve the efficiency in the use of water.

**Customer:** any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the District.

**Domestic water use:** water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

**Even number address:** street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

**Industrial water use:** the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

**Landscape irrigation use:** water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, rights-of-way and medians.

**Non-essential water use:** water uses that are not essential, nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;

- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than fire fighting.

**Odd numbered address:** street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

## **Section VII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

The manager or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

The triggering criteria described below are based on: triggering criteria/trigger levels based on a statistical analysis of the vulnerability of the water source under drought of record conditions, or based on known system capacity limits.

## **Section VIII - Drought Response Triggers**

### **Stage 1 Triggers -- Water Shortage WATCH Conditions**

#### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII-Definitions, when the specific capacity of the Districts well(s) is equal to or less than 90 percent of the well’s original specific capacity.

#### Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 5 consecutive days.

### **Stage 2 Triggers -- Water Shortage WARNING Conditions**

#### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when the specific capacity of the District well(s) is equal to or less than 80 percent of the well’s original specific capacity.

Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 5 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

**Stage 3 Triggers -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 3 of this Plan when the specific capacity of the District well(s) is equal to or less than 70 percent of the well's original specific capacity.

Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 5 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

**Stage 4 Triggers -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 4 of this Plan when the specific capacity of the District well(s) is equal to or less than 60 percent of the well's original specific capacity.

Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 5 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

**Section IX: Drought Response Stages**

The manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this Plan, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical, emergency or water shortage condition exists and shall implement the following notification procedures:

**Notification**

Notification of the Public:

The manager or his/ her designee shall notify the public by means of:

*direct mail to each customer,  
public service announcements,  
signs posted in public places*

Additional Notification:

The manager or his/ her designee shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

Fire Chief(s)  
County Emergency Management Coordinator/Office of Emergency Management  
County District 5 Supervisor  
State Disaster District / Department of Public Safety  
California Department of Public Health  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Stage 1 Response -- Water Shortage WATCH Conditions**

**Target: Achieve a voluntary 10 percent reduction in total water use.**

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand :

- (a) Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.
- (b) All operations of the District shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 2 of the Plan.
- (c) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes.

**Stage 2 Response -- Water Shortage WARNING Conditions**

**Target: Achieve a 20 percent reduction in total water use, daily water demand, etc.).**

Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

Under threat of penalty for violation, the following water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at

anytime if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.

- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses
- (c) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- (d) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
- (e) Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the District office.
- (f) The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
  - 1. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - 2. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - 3. use of water for dust control;
  - 4. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
  - 5. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

### **Stage 3 Response -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Achieve a 30 percent reduction in demand.**

#### Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip

irrigation, or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system only. The use of hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.

- (b) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.

#### **Stage 4 Response -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Achieve a 40 percent reduction in demand.**

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:. All requirements of Stage 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited.
- (c) The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.
- (d) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.

#### **Section X: Enforcement**

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the District for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by the manager, or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.
- (b) Any person who violates this Plan shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day. Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person receives three or more distinct violations of this Plan, the manager shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge, hereby established at \$230.00, and any other costs incurred by discontinuing service. In

addition, suitable assurance must be given to the manager that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect.

- (c) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the District, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. Parents shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children and proof that a violation, committed by a child, occurred on property within the parents' control shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the parent committed the violation, but any such parent may be excused if he/she proves that he/she had previously directed the child not to use the water as it was used in violation of this Plan and that the parent could not have reasonably known of the violation.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The manager, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- (b) Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the District within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the manager, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.