Mandatory Water Restrictions in Place



Stay Green Team Helps HOAs Comply with New Rules

August 2014

n response to a record-setting drought that has been labeled as "exceptional" by the State of California, water suppliers in the Santa Clarita Valley are enacting an Action Plan that implements mandatory restrictions on water use.

The Action Plan is designed to ensure that local residents and businesses reduce overall water use and comply with new statewide restrictions enacted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Violations of the state regulations can carry fines of up to \$500 per day. These restrictions apply to everyone — individuals, businesses, homeowners associations, even schools and other public entities.

The restrictions in the local Action Plan can basically be boiled down into two categories: prohibited uses and an oddeven irrigation schedule. The prohibited uses are pretty simple, and for the most part compliance is not a major burden:

- No washing cars without using a shutoff nozzle.
- No irrigation that causes run-off onto paved surfaces.
- No hosing down driveways or sidewalks.
- No use of fountains that don't recirculate water.

Regarding the odd-even irrigation schedule, which, again, applies to all water users, those with odd-numbered addresses can water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through October. Even-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. After October, it switches to a twiceweekly schedule for the colder months.

Some HOAs may have confusion about whether common areas are to be irrigated on odd days or even days under the new schedule, since common areas don't have an "address," per se. The answer: Each water meter has a corresponding address for billing, so that is the address that determines whether irrigation must be done on the odd or the even schedule.

Further: You MAY be eligible for an exemption from the odd-even scheduling if you can demonstrate that your year-to-date water use for 2014 is at least 20 percent lower than the comparable period in 2013. However, such an exemption must be approved by a customer's retail water provider.

The Stay Green team is working with our clients to ensure compliance and, as always, we remain committed to helping our clients exercise positive stewardship of resources and keep their landscapes beautiful at the same time.

If you have questions about the new irrigation schedules and how they may affect individual property owners, an HOA or any other water user, please contact the Stay Green team at (800) 858-5508.

About Stay Green Inc.

Stay Green Inc. delivers the quality, expertise and resources only an industry leader can provide, combining exceptional client service with an unsurpassed reputation for excellence that spans four decades. Based in Santa Clarita, the company has more than 300 employees working in Landscape Maintenance, Plant Health Care, Tree Care, Water Management Services and Landscape Design/Build Services. Stay Green serves clients throughout Southern California, and exercises environmental stewardship through its Sustainability Practices, which are applied across all service lines to help customers protect the environment as well as the bottom line.



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