

TITLE: WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2024-05-08

POLICY #: CP-020

PREPARED BY: JAMES SUFFREDINE

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 14, 2024

SUPERSEDES:

UP FOR REVIEW: 2028

PURPOSE

The Town of Magrath is responsible for managing water resources within the municipality. This document is intended as a management and preparedness plan for water shortages in the supply of raw water from Jensen Reservoir or potable water from the Magrath and District Regional Water Services Commission. This will guide the Town of Magrath staff in managing water shortages.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Water restrictions and water rationing are commonly applied measures to ensure that critically limited water supplies are distributed in a way that sufficient water is delivered to preserve public health and safety. Water restrictions limit certain uses of water and can limit water availability in terms of volume and/or time when it can be used. Water rationing may include a temporary suspension of water supply or a reduction of pressure below that required for adequate supply under normal conditions that affect all water users. The Town of Magrath may demand various levels of reduced water usage to ensure a sufficient supply of water for critical infrastructure and public health and safety.

Demand Reduction Strategies

Depending on the severity of the water shortage, the Town will impose varying levels of water use restrictions. Town Council is designated as the authority for implementing a Level 1 or Level 2 reduction notice. The Chief Administrative Officer is designated as the authority for issuing a Level 3 reduction notice. (See Schedule A – Water Rationing Stages)

1. Level 1 – Voluntary – Demand Reduction Target: 10 - 20%
 - a. The Town will issue a water shortage advisory and provide conservation educational materials.
 - b. The Town will request voluntary conservation.
2. Level 2 – Mandatory – Demand Reduction Target: 30 – 40%
 - a. The Town will issue a water shortage alert.
 - b. The Town will impose restrictions on water use.
 - c. The Town will monitor compliance and enforce restrictions.

3. Level 3 – Emergency – Demand Reduction Target: 40%+
 - a. The Town will issue a water shortage emergency.
 - b. The Town will ban all non-essential water use.
 - c. The Town may temporarily increase the metered rate of water to achieve the target.

**WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN
SCHEDULE "A"**

POTABLE WATER			
Watering Activity	Level 1 - Voluntary	Level 2 – Mandatory	Level 3 - Emergency
Runoff down sidewalks, driveways and streets	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Washing down outdoor surfaces	Discouraged	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Water for decorative features or fountains	Discouraged	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Irrigation sprinkling for residential and commercial lawns	Discouraged <small>Usage of manual or automatic timers required</small>	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hand watering for flower beds, gardens, trees, and shrubs	Allowed	Hand watering only between 6:00 pm and 10:00 am	Not Allowed
Newly planted grass, trees and shrubs (If Level 2 is reached, it is recommended that no new planting occur.)	Allowed	Up to 1 hour between 6:00 pm and 10:00 am	Not Allowed
Water for private pools, water slides, ponds, and hot tubs	Allowed <small>Discouraged where not contained</small>	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Water for construction purposes	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Washing vehicles at car washes	Allowed	Discouraged	Not Allowed
Indoor Water Suggestions to reach the reduction targets	Reduce the use of washer and dishwasher (full loads only), shower and bath levels reduced	Reduce flushing of toilets by $\frac{1}{2}$, shower times and bath levels by $\frac{1}{2}$, use dishwasher and washer sparingly	Reduce flushing of toilets to only when necessary, shower times and bath levels by $\frac{3}{4}$, use dishwasher and washer sparingly

IRRIGATION WATER

Watering Activity	Level 1 - Voluntary	Level 2 – Mandatory	Level 3 - Emergency
Runoff down sidewalks, driveways and streets	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Washing down outdoor surfaces	Discouraged	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Water for decorative features or fountains	Discouraged	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Irrigation sprinkling for residential and commercial lawns	Allowed <small>Usage of manual or automatic timers encouraged</small>	Allowed <small>Usage of manual or automatic timers encouraged</small>	Not Allowed
Hand watering for flower beds, gardens, trees, and shrubs	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Newly planted grass, trees and shrubs (If Level 2 is reached, it is recommended that no new planting occur.)	Allowed <small>Usage of manual or automatic timers encouraged</small>	Allowed <small>Usage of manual or automatic timers encouraged</small>	Not Allowed
Water for pools, water slides, ponds and hot tubs	Allowed <small>Discouraged where not contained</small>	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Water for construction purposes	Allowed	Discouraged	Not Allowed
Water for commercial purposes	Allowed	Discouraged	Not Allowed