

CITY OF CHINO HILLS

PRESS RELEASE



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CHINO HILLS DECLARES STAGE II WATER ALERT

The Chino Hills City Council has declared a Stage II Moderate Water Conservation Alert in accordance with its Water Conservation Ordinance. The action, as recommended by the Public Works Commission and staff on February 5th, makes common sense water conservation measures a requirement, effective immediately.

“Governor Brown proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency on January 17th,” said Nadeem Majaj, Director of Public Works. “Last year was the driest year on record in the State of California and Chino Hills is redoubling our efforts to use water carefully and to remind our residents that water conservation should be a way of life.”

Stage II is a Moderate Conservation Alert and is declared when it is anticipated that the water supply may be reduced by up to 10%. The California Department of Water Resources has indicated that the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), one provider of imported water deliveries to Chino Hills, will not receive any water from the State Water Project which originates from the Sacramento Delta. Water deliveries from MWD are not currently anticipated to be curtailed because the agency has made significant progress in infrastructure to store water.

The Stage II Water Alert does not apply to construction projects or areas where recycled water, flowing through purple pipes, is used. Restrictions that prohibit watering landscaped areas between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (except where purple pipes deliver recycled water to landscaped areas) and the hosing down of driveways are among the list of eight items designed to eliminate water waste.

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“Chino Hills and our residents have been at the forefront of conservation,” said Mr. Majaj. “We are required as a community to reduce water use by 20 percent by the year 2020 and we are well on the way to achieving the State-mandated goal.”

According to Mr. Majaj, the City will focus outreach and education efforts to make the community aware of the Stage II Water Alert and required water conservation measures.

Provisions of the Stage II Water Alert require that local restaurants not serve water unless requested. Water fountains at commercial properties may only be operated if the water is part of a re-circulating system, like the systems in use at the City’s water features at City Hall and English Springs Park. Residential and commercial water customers must repair all water leaks. Vehicles, trailers, boats, and livestock can be washed with a bucket and a hand-held hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle for a quick rinse. Water may not run off or leak from landscaped areas to streets, sidewalks or other paved areas due to incorrectly directed or maintained sprinklers, or overwatering.

If residents observe prohibited activities, they may call the City’s Water Wise Hotline at (909) 364-2850 to report the concern. The City’s Water Conservation staff will follow-up and provide information about the requirements of the Stage II Water Alert. Public Works employees who work out in the field will make note of locations where water waste is observed for follow-up as well. Water customers with questions about the Stage II Water Alert may call (909) 364-2804.

“We will work to reach those customers who have not made water conservation a way of life,” said Mr. Majaj.

According to Valerie McClung, Community Relations Manager, the City’s outreach efforts will include making it very easy to find “water conservation” on the City website (www.chinohills.org/waterconservation), providing information by personal contact, and highlighting water conservation information through flyers on counters at City facilities, in local newspapers, on Time/Warner channel 3 and Verizon channel 41, in City water bills, and through City publications. Homeowner’s Associations, apartment complex managers, and other organizations are invited to call (909) 364-2615 to request information that they can share with their owners and/or renters.

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City officials consider the community outreach component as the first phase of implementing the Stage II Water Alert. Following the public education and outreach period, the City will seek voluntary compliance and will make sure water customers are aware of the new requirements. A door hanger will be placed at the property indicating what activity was noted. The Ordinance does have a series of escalating fines which could be implemented if necessary. However, the City plans to seek voluntary compliance through education, which proved effective in earlier efforts.

The full Ordinance is available on the City website at www.chinohills.org/municipalcode. Rebates are available for a variety of water-saving appliances, etc. and can be accessed at www.chinohills.org/WaterConservation under “rebates.” Links are also provided to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency website for additional rebate information. One rebate provides an incentive for residents to reduce the amount of turf on their property. Most rebates are offered on a first-come, first-served basis while funds are available. Another link on the City website provides information about the Chino Basin Water Conservation District’s program to offer landscape water audits by appointment. District employees will visit homes to check for leaks, monitor irrigation effectiveness, and provide water conservation tips. These appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Another website www.BeWaterWise is a resource for water conservation information.

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City of Chino Hills - Stage II Water Alert

Moderate Conservation Alert

Prohibitions and Restrictions

1. No hose washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, etc.
2. Decorative water fountains at commercial properties may only be operated if the water is part of a re-circulating system.
3. Water customers must repair all water leaks.
4. Outdoor watering of landscaping is prohibited between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. * **
5. Vehicles, trailers, boats, and livestock can be washed with the use of a bucket and a hand-held hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle for a quick rinse.
6. Restaurants may not serve water unless the customer requests water.
7. Water may not run off or leak from landscaped areas to streets, sidewalks, or other paved areas due to incorrectly directed or maintained sprinklers or over watering.
8. Fire hydrants may only be used for firefighting. ***

*This provision does not apply to water dependent industries including equestrian and livestock businesses, nurseries, and golf courses.

** Hand watering through the use of a hand-held hose with a shut-off nozzle is permitted.

***An exception may be made for construction use through a City-designated meter when recycled water is not available.