



Fact Sheet / FAQ

Santa Fe Irrigation District

Drought Response Level 2 Condition

Q: What does the May 21 action by the Santa Fe Irrigation District Board of Directors mean for the District's customers?

A: SFID Board of Directors' Resolution 09-09, approved on May 21, 2009, declared a Drought Response Level 2 Condition for the Santa Fe Irrigation District. The declaration institutes mandatory water conservation measures for the District's residential and business customers. The resolution applies to water and water-related services from the District, including the service territory of the City of Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch.

Q: Will the Level 2 mandatory water conservation measures take effect immediately?

A: The effective date is July 1, 2009.

Q: How long will this condition remain in effect?

A: The Level 2 drought condition will remain in effect until the Board determines the restrictions are no longer necessary.

Q: Could a Level 3 or even Level 4 drought condition be declared in the future?

A: Such action is not considered necessary at this time. It is the District's belief that, with Level 2 water conservation measures, a reliable and sustainable water supply will be provided to the District's customers.

Q: What is the District's goal for water use reduction?

A: The target is a 6 percent reduction in water use.

Q: Why is the District making water conservation mandatory?

A: The voluntary water conservation measures of the Drought Response Level 1 Condition, which took effect late last year, were insufficient to meet the District's conservation needs. Mandatory water conservation is necessary to minimize the effects of water supply shortages and to provide a reliable supply of water essential to public health, safety and welfare.

Q: What prompted the District to declare a Level 2 drought condition?

A: A series of actions taken by state, regional and local agencies led to the District's Level 2 declaration:

- June 4, 2008 — Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a statewide drought
- June 10, 2008 — Metropolitan Water District declared a water supply alert
- December 15, 2008 — a biological opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service imposed a 30 percent restriction on water deliveries from the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project to protect Delta Smelt
- April 14, 2009 — Metropolitan Water District announced a 13 percent reduction in deliveries to the San Diego County Water Authority
- April 23, 2009 — San Diego County Water Authority announced an 8 percent reduction in deliveries to its member agencies for FY 2010
- Climate models from the National Weather service and regional water resource planning scenarios indicate that the county may continue to experience water shortages over the next few years

Q: Why do we have a water shortage?

A: The water shortage in San Diego County is due to a combination of factors:

- Prolonged drought, reduced Sierra snowpack and low water levels in state reservoirs
- Restrictions on water exports from the Bay-Delta area
- Reduction in water deliveries from the MWD and SDCWA

Q: If the SDCWA is restricting deliveries by 8 percent, why is the District's target reduction only 6 percent?

A: In addition to deliveries from the SDCWA, the District owns the rights to the water in Lake Hodges. Approximately 70 percent of the District's water is imported and 30 percent comes from local supplies.

Q: What are the Level 2 mandatory water conservation measures?

A: Level 2 mandatory water conservation measures include:

- All voluntary conservation measures included in Level 1, declared by the General Manager on Oct. 16, 2008.
- Do not wash down paved surfaces unless required for safety or sanitation.
- Use positive shut-off nozzles on hoses or use buckets when hand-watering plants.
- From **June 1 through October 31**, residential and commercial landscape irrigation is limited to no more than **three days a week, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.**
 - Addresses ending with **even numbers** are allowed to irrigate **Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.**
 - Addresses ending with **odd numbers** are allowed to irrigate **Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday.**
 - **Apartments, condominiums and business** are allowed to irrigate **Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**
- From **November 1 through May 31**, residential and commercial landscape irrigation is limited to **once a week, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.:**
 - Addresses ending with **even numbers** are allowed to irrigate on **Tuesday.**
 - Addresses ending with **odd numbers** are allowed to irrigate on **Thursday.**

- **Apartments, condominiums and businesses** are allowed to water on **Wednesday**.
- Hand-watering using positive shut-off nozzles on hoses or using buckets only on the irrigation schedule established for automatic irrigation systems.
- Stop water waste resulting from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, low head drainage, or overspray.
- Repair all leaks within 72 hours of notification by the District.
- Stop operating ornamental fountains or similar decorative water features unless recycled water is used.
- Use recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available.

Q: Do these mandatory water conservation measures apply to commercial growers or nurseries?

A: Nursery and commercial grower may water their products before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only. Watering is permitted at any time with a bucket, a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, or when a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment is used. Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time.

Q: Why don't the measures restricting residents and businesses apply to commercial growers or nurseries?

A: The District is targeting inefficient outdoor irrigation, hence the emphasis on no overspray, fixing leaks, and defined watering schedules. Commercial growers and nurseries, for the most part, are already efficient and have developed water schedules specific to their plants. In many cases, they use drip irrigation and have professional management of their systems.

Q: Is watering of livestock restricted in any way?

A: Watering of livestock is permitted at any time.

Q: Why are ornamental fountains being restricted but not swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, etc.?

A: Ornamental fountains, because they spray water in the air, yield a greater amount of evaporation. The District also encourages those who haven't already to cover their pools and spas to reduce evaporation.

Q: Does the Level 2 declaration implement water allocations or restrict the issuance of new potable-water service meters within the District?

A: Level 2 declaration does not implement water allocations or restrict the issuance of new potable-water service meters at this time.

Q: Does the Level 2 declaration mean water rates will go up?

A: No water rate increase is associated with the Level 2 declaration. A previously scheduled rate increase of 15 percent will take effect on January 1, 2010.

Q: How will the District enforce the mandatory water conservation measures?

A: District customers may report non-compliance to the **SFID Water Conservation Hotline, (858) 227-5801**.

If District employees observe non-compliance, they may leave a doorhanger on the customer's door and initiate a formal notification under the District's Drought Response Policies & Procedures.

Q: What are the penalties for violating the mandatory water conservation measures?

A: The penalties for violation of mandatory water conservation range from notification by letter for a first violation to an administrative fine of \$500 for a fourth violation in a one-year period, in accordance with Section 17.12 of the District's Drought Response Policies and Procedures—Violations and Penalties.

Q: Are there exemptions to the water conservation measures?

A: Customers can apply for variances by submitting a form to the District for consideration.

Q: What is the District doing to expand its water supply and ensure an adequate supply of water in the future?

A: The District adopted a Water Purchase Agreement with Poseidon Resources Corp. to obtain 2,000 acre-feet per year of water from Poseidon's Carlsbad desalination plant, representing about 14 percent of the District's total annual need of 13,500 acre feet. The plant is scheduled to be operational before the end of 2011.

The District is currently delivering approximately 500 acre feet (163 million gallons) of recycled water, which represents almost 4 percent of total water consumption. The District also is exploring other recycled water delivery opportunities and plans to continue to expand its recycled water customer base.

Q: Where can someone find the full legal description of the mandatory water conservation measures and the penalties for violating these mandates?

A: This information is contained in the District's Drought Response Policies and Procedures, Section 17, available at the District's Web site: www.sfidwater.org.