

Water Scarcity Response Plan

City of Fountain

El Paso County, Colorado



Prepared by: City of Fountain Utilities Department

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Introduction

Water remains a valuable resource in the region, and it is important that it is used wisely. In order to provide the highest quality water in as cost-effective manner as possible, the City of Fountain (City) encourages residents to help conserve water at all times through efficient indoor and outdoor water use practices. This plan establishes mandatory action during events of water scarcity.

Summary

The City of Fountain Water Scarcity Response Plan (WSRP) is an action plan to be utilized during times of drought or other water scarcity related events. The inclining measures taken as higher stages are triggered will aid in lessening adverse effects to the local economy, environment, public health and safety and lifestyles during these occurrences.

This plan establishes criteria for determining the severity of water scarcity events, and the appropriate action to be taken. The City of Fountain's Water Master Plan (Resolution 21-059) and Water Efficiency Plan (Resolution 18-024) reinforce the City's commitment to responsible and efficient use of its water resources. The WSRP is complementary of these documents. The City closely monitors water storage levels and demand patterns to meet the needs of its community. This plan recognizes that our region and the entire State of Colorado has a highly variable and typically arid climate, which reinforces the need for a Water Scarcity Response Plan.

Severity of water scarcity events is determined based on raw water storage levels, treated water storage levels, water demand, and the forecasted length of the scarcity event. As stages progress, so do the required water saving actions that will aid in demand reduction.

Authority to Implement

The Utilities Director may implement the Water Scarcity Response Plan to maximize water efficiency during water scarcity events. This authority is established by the City of Fountain Municipal Code; Chapter 13.04, Utilities Code; Sec. 13.04.050 Delegation to Director. While a declaration of drought condition by the State of Colorado may influence implementation of the WSRP, it is not the sole influence. Implementation may be based on conditions specific to the City that directly impact the City's ability to supply water.

Potential scenarios that would trigger implementation of the WSRP may include a significant loss of pressure due to breaks in infrastructure, groundwater contamination, drought or catastrophic failure of any element of the water system.

If the Utilities Director or designee has reason to believe that any trigger is imminent, or that there may be a threat to the water system, the Utilities Director or designee may implement

any stage of the plan to ensure that minimum water service is maintained to the greatest extent possible for essential use.

Implementation

Monitoring and Assessment

The Utilities Director or designee will monitor water supply and demand. Implementation of the stages defined below or changes in implementation may occur as a result of an activity, whether forecasted or unanticipated, that result in a drastic impact to water storage levels and the City's ability to meet water demand.

Stage Implementation

Implementation of the stages apply to all customers that receive water service from the City. Stages I-IV each have variable courses of action depending on whether the water scarcity is deemed short-term or long term.

Additional conservation and/or use reduction measures may be enacted if deemed necessary by the Utilities Director or their designee to address specific conditions that may create damage or harm to other users. The Utilities Director or their designee may grant exceptions on an individual basis to any restriction in order to avoid creating irreparable or unnecessary harm to any user.

STAGE I

Baseline - Permanent and ongoing

The following is applicable to potable and non-potable water sources.

City of Fountain Water Utility customers are encouraged to:

- Limit outdoor watering to no more than two days per week during the months of May, June and September; and no more than three days per week during July and August.
 - *New lawns are exempt from this recommendation as they require a different watering schedule for the first eight weeks of establishment.*
- Limit outdoor watering to occur before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.
- Use the cycle & soak method by dividing their irrigation run time into three events with at least 30 minutes between each watering cycle to an area.
- Eliminate water waste (excessive runoff, pooling water or stagnant water that presents a health/safety concern) through repair or discontinued use.
- Water waste issues must be resolved within five business days of notification.

Examples of water waste include but are not limited to the following:

- **Broken System:** *Irrigation head, line or controller clock*
 - *Characterized by stuck zone, geyser, excessive cycling*
- **Misuse:** *Water that is not being used efficiently or left unattended*
 - *Hoses without shut off nozzle, unattended waterslides*
 - *Watering impervious surfaces such as driveways or sidewalks*
 - *Allowing water to pool or flow into any drainage way such as gutters, alleys, streets or storm drains.*
 - *Watering during significant rain or high wind events*

STAGE II – SHORT TERM

Trigger – Treated water storage is $\leq 75\%$ with persistent conditions

- All recommended actions under Stage I are maintained.
- All construction water is to be taken from non-potable wells.

STAGE II - SUSTAINED

Trigger - Raw water storage forecast is ≤ 1.5 years of supply or $\leq 50\%$ annual water delivery

- All actions under Stage I are now mandatory and required.
- Construction water users may be required to transition to non-potable wells.

- Permit is required for new lawns.
 - New lawns are exempt from Watering Guidelines during establishment. 6 weeks for turf, 8 weeks for seed.

STAGE III – SHORT TERM

Trigger – Treated water storage is $\leq 60\%$ with persistent conditions

- All actions under Stage II – Short Term are required.
- All City maintained irrigation curtailed.
- The City will implement a plan to curtail non-essential water use of High Water Use customers.
 - Examples of non-essential use include irrigating, car washing (non-commercial), pond, or pool filling, water features (fountains, slides).

STAGE III - SUSTAINED

Trigger - Raw water storage forecast is ≤ 1 year of supply or $\leq 30\%$ annual water delivery

- All actions under Stage II – Sustained are required.
- Irrigation limited to two days a week, regardless of time of year.
- No new turf landscape may be installed. Includes sod and seed.

STAGE IV – SHORT TERM

Trigger – Treated water storage is $\leq 55\%$ with persistent conditions

- All actions under Stage III – Short Term are required.
- Water use is prohibited for all non-essential uses for all users.
 - Essential uses include human consumption and water necessary to protect human health.
 - Examples of non-essential use include irrigating, car washing (non-commercial), pond, or pool filling, water features (fountains, slides).

STAGE IV - SUSTAINED

Trigger - Raw water storage forecast is $\leq \frac{1}{2}$ year of supply or complete curtailment of water delivery

- All actions under Stage III – Sustained are required.
- Pending council approval, water scarcity rates may be implemented to maintain operational costs.
- New water connections are suspended until further notice.