

Chapter 14.06A

WATER CONSERVATION AND CONTROL OF WATER USAGE DURING WATER SHORTAGE

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14.06A.010 Policy statement.

A. Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution, the County finds that water is a public trust resource.

B. The County's policy is to promote water conservation and take preventative measures to reduce the risk and severity of water shortages.

C. Water conservation is essential to preserve water resources, and to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

D. Unrestricted water use for nonessential needs during times of water shortage may endanger the adequacy of the County's water supply for essential needs. (Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.020 Definitions.

When used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning, "water-efficient" means practices using improved technologies and methods to obtain desired results utilizing the least amounts of water. (Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.030 Leak detection.

A. The department shall monitor water consumption and issue high-consumption notices to consumers when warranted.

B. The department shall prioritize the replacement of old and leak-prone water mains.

C. When available, the department shall reasonably distribute leak detection tablets or other leak detection methods to detect toilet tank leaks to a consumer upon request.

D. The department shall encourage the public to report water leaks. (Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.040 Education and incentives.

A. The department shall promote water conservation education.

B. When available, the department shall reasonably provide water-efficient faucet and shower fixtures, and outdoor hose nozzles to consumers upon request at no charge.

C. The department, in consultation with the board, shall implement an incentive program to encourage consumers to replace old toilets and water fixtures with those that have increased levels of water efficiency and are consistent with water conservation design principles. (Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.050 Declaration of water shortage.

A. The director, with approval of the mayor, may declare a water shortage whenever the water supply becomes inadequate in any area in the County or County water system because of a period of drought, an infrastructure or mechanical malfunction, natural disaster, or other event causing a water shortage.

B. Prior to declaring a water shortage, the director shall consider the following:

1. Current and predicted weather patterns.
2. Reservoir water levels.
3. Surface water flow.
4. Current and predicted water usage.
5. Operational status of water production facilities.

(Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.060 Stages of water shortage.

A. In declaring a water shortage, the director shall designate the appropriate stage of the water shortage as follows:

1. Stage 1. A stage 1 water shortage shall exist if the director determines that anticipated water demand in an area is projected to exceed available water supply by one to fifteen percent.

2. Stage 2. A stage 2 water shortage shall exist if the director determines that anticipated water demand in an area is projected to exceed available water supply by sixteen to thirty percent.

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Ann Chair Atay.

3. Stage 3. A stage 3 water shortage shall exist if the director determines that anticipated water demand in an area is projected to exceed available water supply by thirty-one percent or more.

B. When a water shortage is declared, the director may apply schedules, restrictions, or measures as follows:

1. Prohibit water usage during certain hours or days of the week.

2. Prohibit the use of water for irrigation, lawns, personal washing of vehicles, or other nonessential activities.

3. Prohibit the use of temporary construction meters.

4. Institute water shortage water rates as set forth in the annual budget.

C. Failure of a consumer to comply with any mandated water restriction may result in penalties established in section 14.06A.090.

(Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.070 Notice and publication of declaration of water shortage.

A. A notice of declaration of water shortage shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation, and to the extent possible, other available public media, in the County, once each week for as long as the water shortage exists. Except during a stage 3 water shortage, the first notice of a water shortage shall be published at least seven calendar days prior to the beginning date of any water shortage.

B. Each water shortage notice shall state the duration of restrictions, the application of water shortage rates, and any other measures established by the director to control water usage.

C. A notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation, and to the extent possible, other available public media, in the County, when a water shortage declaration stage changes or when the water shortage declaration ends.

D. To the extent possible, the department shall also notify consumers in the affected water system area of the water shortage declaration by regular United States mail; provided, that non-receipt of such mailed notice by any affected water consumer shall not affect nor invalidate the declaration of water shortage.

(Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.080 Agricultural consumers.

A. In the event of a water shortage declaration, agricultural water consumers shall be requested to reduce water consumption to the extent practicable, but shall not be required to implement any restrictions or mandates imposed by section 14.06A.060 for the first ninety days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the County.

B. After the ninety days provided in subsection A, agricultural consumers shall be subject to the same provisions as other consumers.

(Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.090 Violation-penalty.

A. Any consumer violating the schedules, restrictions, or measures established by the director pursuant to this chapter may be charged with a violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500 for each violation.

B. The water meter of any consumer who has been convicted in accordance with subsection A, and has subsequently been charged with another violation of any schedule, restriction, or measure established by the director pursuant to this chapter, may be removed by the director, subject to the opportunity to appeal such water meter removal to the board pursuant to chapter 14.11 of this title.

C. A reinstatement fee of \$100 and the water system development fee as set forth in the annual budget shall be assessed against the owner of any water meter removed pursuant to this section and thereafter reinstalled.

D. Any application for water service within thirty-six months after removal pursuant to the procedures set forth in this section shall be exempt from the water system development fee.

(Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)

14.06A.100 Review.

A. The council shall review the provisions set forth in this chapter beginning January 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter.

B. As part of the review, the director shall provide a report to the council on all actions taken by the department under this chapter during the review period, including a list of water shortage declarations and, for each water shortage declaration:

1. The areas affected by each water shortage declaration.

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2. The duration of each water shortage declaration.

3. The restrictions imposed.
(Ord. No. 4178, § 5, 2014)