

WHEN WILL WE RUN OUT OF WATER?

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

We are in our fourth year of serious drought and local groundwater levels are at a historic low. So, when are we going to run out of water? The short answer: it's unlikely we will run out of water. More below on how I come to that answer.

We are in Stage III shortage response now and we are asking all residents to turn back sprinklers and let residential lawn/turf go brown. Our goal is a 30% reduction in overall use month to month compared to 2013. Limiting irrigation will get us there.

Additionally, in accordance with Stage III response, we are not accepting applications for new water service at this time. We are still allowing limited residential landscape irrigation and working with the local school district and county parks to maintain practice fields and turf where our community recreates and our children learn valuable lessons of team work.

Supplemental water will start flowing next month and if average or above average rains return next year, our groundwater basin will recover and our Shortage Response Stages will be relaxed. If drought continues next winter and basin health is further diminished, we will take next steps. Stage IV (4) shortage response actions include a 50% reduction goal, the discontinuance of outdoor water uses and suspended processing of any active development projects. Stage V (5) response calls for a 60% reduction in District wide water use.

The ultimate goal of the District's water shortage response plan is to preserve water resources for human health, welfare and safety with particular regards to domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection. If it comes to it, humans can easily survive (drink, cook, bath, dispose of human waste) on 10 gallons of water a day. For the approximately 12,500 residents served by NCSD water, that equates to less than 150 acre-feet of water annually. The District currently delivers over 2,000 acre-feet of water annually and nearly 200 acre-feet in a peak mid-summer month when irrigation demands are highest.

We will get past this drought. In the meantime, we are strengthening our water resource future by diversifying our supply and shifting away from water hungry landscapes.

Many District customers are doing their part conserving water; many customers can and must do more. If your two-month water use is over 40 billing units (nearly 30,000 gallons) – you can do more! Focus conservation efforts in the yard. Beautiful landscapes do NOT need to be water hungry landscapes. Contact us for more information on how you can save water and save money. Additionally, property owners can receive a record of water use.

Water is precious and money is hard-earned – let's do all we can to save all we can.

What have YOU DONE to conserve? If you have cut your water use, we want to hear from you! Additionally, if you have converted your landscape to native, drought-tolerant plants, we want to hear from you. You may be featured in upcoming District communications. Contact the District at info@ncsd.ca.gov.