



Nipomo Community Services District

FAQs and NCSD's Response to State-Ordered Drought Restrictions

1. What types of water use are prohibited for all Californians?

The 2015 emergency conservation regulation prohibits:

- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways;
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water;
- Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars;
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water;
- **New:** Irrigating landscape more than two days per week; and
- **New:** Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall

2. Are businesses required to conserve water as well?

Yes, the prohibitions above apply to businesses and residents. In addition, the 2015 emergency conservation regulation also focuses on the restaurant and hospitality sector:

- **New:** Restaurants are prohibited from serving water to their customers unless the customer requests it; and
- **New:** Hotels and motels must offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily, and prominently display this option in each guest room.

3. How is the District responding to the Governor's Order?

In addition to bringing in a supplemental water source from Santa Maria, the District is taking action to address the water shortage and further align our efforts with the Governor's Orders and emergency drought regulation.

Currently, the District is implementing the following measures through its Water Shortage Response and Management Plan:

- Four-tier escalating water rates. The more water used, the more a customer pays. Rates in Tier 4 are 300% higher than Tier 1;
- Urging residents to:
 - Fix all plumbing and irrigation leaks immediately.
 - Irrigate after 8PM and before 9AM.
 - Irrigate landscapes no more than 2 days per week.
 - Minimum to no irrigation in winter months.
 - Check all irrigation systems monthly.
 - Not allow excessive run off.
 - Recirculate water in ornamental water features (fountains).
 - Cover swimming pools and spas.
 - Not use water to wash down exterior surfaces (e.g. driveway, deck, home).



Nipomo Community Services District

4. What rebates does the District offer?

The District currently offers a \$75 rebate for high-efficiency clothes washers.

The District does not currently offer a “cash for grass” program. As the State discusses possible funds for such a program and passes this information down to the District, it will be shared with customers. Keep checking the District’s website for any updates.

5. What can I do to conserve water?

The largest consumption of water is in outdoor landscaping. Most customers can save significant amounts of water and money by simply watering landscape more efficiently (e.g. reduce over watering and over-spray).

Check for and repair any leaks. Leaks often go undetected and can result in large water waste and high bills.

Visit the District’s website at www.ncsd.ca.gov or visit the office for more information and tips.

6. What about converting our landscape?

Converting your landscape to drought-tolerant plants can result in some significant savings. Taking out 1,000 sq. ft. of landscaping can save a customer approximately \$130/year on their water bill.

Spring and summer is the time to **PLAN** for conversions to be implemented in the fall.

Visit www.slowaterwiselandscaping.com for garden tours, plant lists, watering schedules and more. Additionally, the District has some literature available free to the public at the office.

7. How can I report water waste?

The public is encouraged to contact the District if they see water waste. District staff will follow up on all reports to help customers save water and save money whenever possible.

To report a concern, contact the District at info@ncsd.ca.gov or (805) 929-1133. Anonymous reports are welcome, however a property address/location of where the excessive water use is occurring will be needed to allow for follow up by the District.

8. Contact and Resources

- If you have any questions, feel free to contact the District at info@ncsd.ca.gov or call 929-1133
- For a summary of drought regulation and conservation tips, visit the District’s website at www.ncsd.ca.gov
- For more information regarding the Executive Order and regulations, visit the State Water Resources Control Board’s website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>. Select the link for Emergency Water Conservation Regulations
- To learn more about converting your landscape, visit www.slowaterwiselandscaping.com