

TO: James L. App, City Manager

FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Water Conservation: Watering Restriction Exemptions

DATE: February 16, 2010

NEEDS: For City Council to consider exceptions to Level 2 mandatory irrigation watering schedule restrictions.

FACTS:

1. During peak season 2010, community-wide water demands will exceed available supply by up to 20%. As a result, beginning May 2010 through September 30, 2010, mandatory landscape watering schedule restrictions will be imposed.
2. In September, 2009, the City's Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan Ordinance No. 09-962 N.S. was amended to allow limited exceptions to watering schedule restrictions.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: During the summer of 2009, some customers and facilities experienced difficulty in complying with the assigned 3-day watering schedule. For some customer types, watering only on the three assigned days and hours can interfere with the intended purpose of the facility and significantly impact the ability to apply enough water to establish or maintain turf health. The types of facilities that would be eligible for exceptions to the watering schedule are discussed below.

1. Irrigation of newly planted renovated landscapes in existing parcels for which the renovation will result in a significant reduction in turf area from the property's existing landscape.
Rationale: Last summer staff received several requests for exceptions from customers attempting to renovate existing landscape. If residents and businesses comply with the new turf limitations and reduce turf area a 45-day exception could be granted.
2. Campgrounds and RV park spaces that cannot be irrigated on scheduled days due to the presence of campers.
Rationale: RV parks are busiest and often full on weekend days (Fri.-Sun). Campers typically keep many belongings (e.g. chairs, equipment, grills, clothing, toys, etc.) outside on the RV space lawn area. Watering on the weekend days is not possible without causing problems with camper's belongings. An exception would allow watering RV space areas on off-schedule days so that turf can be maintained.
3. Active play and event areas open to the public, at which scheduled games, events, and practice sessions do not allow watering on scheduled days and times. This includes athletic fields and playgrounds at schools and certain City parks.
Rationale: Several City parks and school playing fields have very heavy play and event schedules during the summer. With watering limited to three days, heavy water applications on scheduled days can create wet conditions that interfere with play and events. Allowing exceptions would facilitate acceptable turf condition at high priority facilities, and reduce interference with scheduled events.

4. Newly planted landscapes in new development for which landscape installation is required prior to a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) being issued.

Rationale: The City's water efficient landscape ordinance now requires that new residential front yards limit turf to 25 percent of the landscaped area. Turf is also limited in new commercial and multi-family development. Providing an exception for a limited period of time to allow establishment of turf and low-water-use plant material will allow new buildings to comply with code requirements in order to receive a C of O. An exception of 45 days to allow establishment of turf and other plant material could be considered. Exceptions would only apply to that portion of the landscape required to be installed to receive a C of O.

Procedures for Obtaining an Exception - If exceptions are adopted, it is recommended that a customer or facility desiring an exception contact the City's water conservation office to request an exception. Only customers or facilities meeting the exception criteria would be placed on a list used by code enforcement staff and a no-cost "exception" permit issued.

POLICY

REFERENCE: City Municipal Code 09-962 N.S. (Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan).

FISCAL

IMPACT: No fiscal impact.

OPTIONS:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 10-XXX establishing a schedule of categories of exceptions to the Level 2 mandatory irrigation watering schedule restrictions that will be in effect during the May 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010 period.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Prepared by: Keith Larson, Water Conservation Manager

Attachments: [Resolution](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 10-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES TO ADOPT A
SCHEDULE OF EXEMPTIONS TO THE IRRIGATING AND WATER RESTRICTIONS MANDATED
UNDER A CITY WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE LEVEL 2

WHEREAS, some customers and facilities experienced difficulty in complying with the assigned 3-day watering schedule.

WHEREAS, The types of facilities that would be eligible for defined exceptions are limited to the following:

Irrigation of newly planted renovated landscapes in existing parcels for which the renovation will result in a significant reduction in turf area from the property's existing landscape for a period not to exceed 45 days.

Newly planted landscapes in new development for which landscape installation is required prior to a Certificate of Occupancy being issued for a period not to exceed 45 days.

Campgrounds and RV park spaces that cannot be irrigated on scheduled days due to the presence of campers on scheduled days. Schedule variances to be established on a case-by-case basis.

Active play and event areas open to the public, at which scheduled games, events, and practice sessions do not allow watering on scheduled days and times. This includes athletic fields and playgrounds at schools and certain City parks. Schedule variances to be established on a case-by-case basis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Paso Robles does hereby adopt the schedule of water-restriction exemptions, for a Level 2 Water supply shortage, as defined herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 16th day of February 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lonnie Dolan, Deputy City Clerk