



*Small Town with a
Big Backyard!*

CITY OF BISHOP

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Public Works News Release

Bishop Implements State Water Conservation Mandates

With the Bishop City Council's approval at their meeting last night, the City of Bishop is implementing 8 water conservation measures. The measures are intended to achieve the state-required 20% reduction in water use by city water customers and to avoid \$10,000 per day fines if no action was taken.

Because of the drought, the state requires that City of Bishop reduce water use by 20% from use in 2013. Under the emergency regulation issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, the city could be fined up to \$10,000 per day if it does not comply with the mandate. The emergency regulation also allows the city to impose fines up to \$500 per day for customers that don't comply with water conservation requirements, but the city does not plan to impose the fines. The state mandate is put in place for 9 months but could be extended if the drought continues. The city's water conservation measures are put in place starting September 2014 until rescinded:

- No outdoor irrigation except between 5 pm and 9 am
- No irrigation of outdoor landscaping so that water runs off property
- No washing vehicles unless hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle
- No washing driveways, sidewalks, and parking areas
- No decorative water features unless there is recirculation
- No water waste caused by easily correctable leaks, breaks, or malfunctions
- No use of potable water for construction purposes
- No hydrant flushing except when required for public health and safety

The city may allow exceptions to some of these measures in some cases.

The city has a standing water conservation incentive program available to help its water customers save water. The program provides free hose nozzles, hose timers, and irrigation system timers and provides rebates for some sprinkler systems and water conserving appliances. The incentives are available only to water customers of the City of Bishop and are limited to one per customer account. Also, quantities of the free items are limited.

The free hose nozzles, hose timers, and irrigation system timers are available at the City of Bishop Public Works Office. To receive these items, come in, fill out an application, and pick one up while supplies last.

Rebates are available for installing water saving sprinkler systems and for eligible water saving upgrades to clothes washers, dish washers, and toilets to modern water conserving models. To receive a rebate, fill out an application, have your old and new item verified by city staff, and get a check. More information and applications are available on the city website or from City of Bishop Public Works.

Saving water saves money, reduces water rates, protects groundwater, is the right thing to do, and is now required by the state. Contact the City of Bishop Department of Public Works at 873-8458 for more information on water conservation and the City's water system.