



*Small Town with a
Big Backyard!*

CITY OF BISHOP

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Public Works News Release

State Water Conservation Mandates Apply to Bishop

It has been clarified that the state-mandated 20% reduction in water use applies to the City of Bishop and its water customers. This is a change from the city's earlier understanding about the state mandate. The mandate applies to Bishop despite our small size and unique water situation. Water conservation requirements start in September.

The state requires that City of Bishop water users 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, although it is hoped the city would not need to impose the fines. In any event, it is important Bishop water customers reduce their water use. The mandate is put in place for 9 months but could be extended if the drought continues.

The state largely dictates how the city must achieve the 20% reduction in water use. To comply with the mandate, the City of Bishop plans to adopt the following potable water conservation measures starting in September 2014:

- 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 water for construction purposes unless approved by the city.
- No hydrant flushing except when required for public health and safety.

These measures are very similar to the measures adopted by Inyo County for its town water systems and are expected to be enacted at the City Council meeting 25 August. The city appreciates the understanding and support of its water customers in meeting the state water conservation requirements.

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.