



Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD LETTER APPROVAL

A blue ink signature of Martin L. Adams, written in a cursive style.

MARTIN L. ADAMS
Senior Assistant General Manager
Water System

A blue ink signature of Marcie L. Edwards, written in a cursive style.

MARCIE L. EDWARDS
General Manager

DATE: April 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the City of Los Angeles (City) Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance (Ordinance)

SUMMARY

Proposed amendments to the City Ordinance are presented to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) for approval. These amendments will create a two-day-a-week outdoor watering schedule, add new watering restrictions, and modify other language to clarify meaning. The purpose of these amendments is to improve the City's ability to respond to the ongoing drought conditions and comply with recently adopted State Emergency Water Conservation Regulations.

City Council approval is required according to Charter Section 240.

RECOMMENDATION

It is requested that the Board adopt the attached Resolution recommending the Mayor's and City Council's approval of the proposed amendments to the Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

On October 14, 2014, Mayor Eric Garcetti issued Executive Directive No. 5 (ED5) calling on Los Angeles to increase conservation in light of the drought. ED5 calls for a reduction in per capita potable water use by 20 percent by 2017, a reduction in LADWP's purchase of imported water by 50 percent by 2024, and the creation of an integrated water strategy that increases local water supplies. In the directive, Mayor Garcetti asks residents to heed the call for conservation by voluntarily decreasing outdoor watering to two days per week. The directive states that if the 20 percent reduction in per capita water use by 2017 is not met, the Mayor will instruct the Board to propose new mandatory water restrictions which limits watering to two days per week.

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown directed the first ever statewide mandatory water use restrictions following the lowest snowpack in recorded history. The Governor's actions include enforcement requirements, expedited approvals for drought response actions, and investments in new water efficiency technologies.

Since 2013, the State of California has been experiencing one of the driest periods on record. In December 2013, Governor Brown formed a Drought Task Force consisting of four state agencies including the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued a Statewide Drought Emergency declaration. As conditions worsened, on April 25, 2014, the Governor issued an Executive Order to redouble statewide drought actions calling for all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent, and for SWRCB to adopt emergency drought regulations.

On July 15, 2014, SWRCB approved Statewide Emergency Water Conservation Regulations, which were subsequently adopted by the California Office of Administrative Law on July 29, 2014. The current regulation requires water purveyors to implement an outdoor watering schedule of two days per week maximum, or an alternative measure that will produce an equivalent amount of water savings. Phase II of the City's Ordinance has fulfilled all of SWRCB's regulatory requirements.

With the continuing drought conditions, on March 17, 2015, SWRCB approved extension of the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations and added some additional water reduction mandates. SWRCB collects monthly data from water suppliers to assess their level of compliance with the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations, and to determine if permanent regulations or reporting are necessary.

In response to the increasing severity of the drought, the additional water use restrictions directed by the Governor, and the call for additional conservation by the Mayor, it is recommended that the City adopt an additional phase in its Ordinance to allow for outdoor watering two days a week. This would become the Ordinance's new Phase III; the existing Phase III, which allows outdoor watering one day a week, would become the new Phase IV.

This added flexibility will provide the City with more options to implement increasingly stringent outdoor watering restrictions and fulfill present and anticipated future Statewide Emergency Water Conservation Regulations.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments to the Ordinance are intended to create an additional phase for two-day-a-week outdoor watering schedule, add new watering restrictions, and modify other language to clarify meaning. The purposes of these amendments are to improve the City's ability to respond to the ongoing drought conditions and comply with recently adopted State Emergency Water Conservation Regulations. Among the proposed amendments are:

- Revised definition for “Baseline Water Usage”
- Removal of unnecessary water rate references
- Additional water use restriction of not irrigating within 48 hours after a measurable rain event
- Additional language in Phase III and IV to recommend and mandate pool covers
- Clarifying language in Phase IV and V to properly address potable water use for pool and aesthetic water features
- Additional language in Phase IV for watering of sensitive areas at golf courses and professional sport fields
- Creation of a new Phase III which limits outdoor watering to two days a week. Odd-numbered street addresses irrigate on Monday and Friday, and even-numbered street addresses irrigate on Sunday and Thursday.
- Watering times for the new Phase III shall be limited to:
 - Non-Conserving nozzles (spray head sprinklers and bubblers) – no more than 8 minutes per watering day per station for a total of 16 minutes per week.
 - Conserving nozzles (standard rotors and multi-stream rotary heads) – no more than 15 minutes per cycle and up to 2 cycles per watering day per station for a total of 60 minutes per week.
 (With the above watering times, water consumption used for both types of nozzles is essentially equal)
- Current Phase III will be renamed Phase IV and include the following new language to clarify allowable watering durations:
 - Non-Conserving nozzles (spray head sprinklers and bubblers) – no more than 8 minutes per watering day per station for a total of 8 minutes per week.
 - Conserving nozzles (standard rotors and multi-stream rotary heads) – no more than 15 minutes per cycle and up to 2 cycles per watering day per station for a total of 30 minutes per week.
- Current Phase IV will be renamed Phase V.
- Current Phase V will be renamed Phase VI.

Revised Proposed Allowed Watering Days

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Phase II	Odd Address	Even Address	Odd Address	Even Address	Odd Address		Even Address
Phase III	Odd Address			Even Address	Odd Address		Even Address
Phase IV	Odd Address	Even Address					

The amended Ordinance will go into effect immediately upon approval by City Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), it has been determined that amending the Ordinance is exempt pursuant to the General Exemption described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3). General Exemptions apply in situations where it can be seen with reasonable certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

CITY ATTORNEY

The Office of the City Attorney reviewed and approved the amended Ordinance and Resolution as to form and legality.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- Amended Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance