



# City of Grover Beach Water Conservation Bulletin

Summer 2007

## City Declares Stage I Water Alert

On June 18, 2007, the City Engineer presented to the City Council information regarding water rainfall received during the past year. As of June 1, 2007, the City received only 44% of the normal rainfall that is expected per season.

This rainfall amount triggered a Stage I alert per the City's Urban Water Management Plan.

In the Urban Water Management Plan, there are five stages, each with varying levels of voluntary and mandatory participation. These stages are directly related to the defined rainfall amounts, and are as follows:

- Stage I-Minor-Voluntary Rainfall Condition is 65% or less than "Normal" rainfall.

- Stage II-Moderate-Voluntary Rainfall Condition is 65% or less than "Normal" rainfall for two years.

- Stage III-Severe-Mandatory Rainfall Condition is 65% or less than "Normal" rainfall for three years or 50% or less than "Normal" rainfall persisting past one season.

- Stage IV-Critical-Mandatory Rainfall Condition is 65% or less than "Normal" rainfall for four years or 50% less than "Normal" rainfall persisting past two seasons.

- Stage V-Terminates the Emergency Response Rainfall has returned to "Normal" and Lopez Lake has achieved at

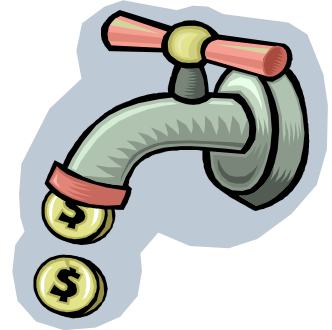
least 40% of capacity. Groundwater shows signs of recovery to pre-shortage levels.

The last protracted dry period began with the water year of 1986-1987 and ended with the water year 1992-1993, lasting seven years.

With the declaration of the Stage I Water Shortage, the implementation of voluntary consumption reduction methods are now being requested of our citizens.

Enclosed in this newsletter are various methods for water conservation, which can be used by all citizens of our community.

With the community pulling together to conserve water, we can all make a difference.



### Special points of interest:

- ONLY 44% OF AVERAGE RAINFALL WAS RECEIVED AS OF YEAR ENDED JUNE 1, 2007
- VOLUNTARY CONSUMPTION REDUCTION METHODS ARE NOW BEING REQUESTED OF OUR CITIZENS
- PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION IS TO SCHEDULE A WATER CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPING SESSION

## Water Conservation Tips – Kitchen and Laundry

1. If you wash dishes by hand — and that's the best way — don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with the rinse water. If you only have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run. Saves 200 to 500 gallons a month.
2. When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed. Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.
3. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This avoids the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking. Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.
4. Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave. Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.
5. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan. Saves 150 to 250 gallons a month.
6. Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage pail more (even better — compost!). Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.

### Inside this issue:

CITY DECLARES WATER ALERT	1
WATER CONSERVATION TIPS KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY	1
WATER CONSERVATION TIPS IN THE BATHROOM	2
WATER CONSERVATION TIPS OUTSIDE	2

## Water Conservation Tips – In the Bathroom

1. Put a plastic bottle weighted with pebbles and filled with water in your toilet tank. Displacing water in this manner allows you to use less water with each flush. Saves 5 to 10 gallons a day. That's up to 300 gallons a month, even more for large families. Better yet, for even greater savings, replace your water-guzzling five to seven gallon per flush toilet with a three and a half gallon, low flush, or a one and a half gallon, ultra-low flush model.
2. If you're taking a shower, don't waste cold water while waiting for hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet. Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.
3. Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired. You could save 400 gallons a month.
4. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Saves three gallons each day.
5. Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom off the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor. Saves three gallons each day.



**If you wash dishes by hand — and that's the best way — don't leave the water running for the rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with the rinse water.**

**IN ADDITION TO THESE TIPS—THE PARKS, RECREATION, & BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION WILL SCHEDULE AN EDUCATIONAL SESSION ON WATER SAVING TECHNIQUES AND LANDSCAPING. LOOK FOR THE SESSION TO BE HELD IN AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER.**

**DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROPERLY! ONE QUART OF OIL CAN CONTAMINATE 250,000 GALLONS OF WATER, EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATING THAT MUCH WATER FROM OUR WATER SUPPLY**

## Water Conservation Tips – Outside

1. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation. Saves 750 to 1,500 gallons a month.
2. If you have a pool, use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation. It will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals. Saves 1,000 gallons a month.
3. Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. Saves 300 gallons.
4. Don't water the lawn on windy days. There's too much evaporation. Can waste up to 300 gallons in one watering.
5. Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers. Can save up to 300 gallons each time.
6. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation. Saves 500 to 1,500 gallons each month.
7. Have an evaporative air conditioner? Direct the water drain line to a flower bed, tree base, or lawn.
8. Drive your car onto a lawn to wash it. Rinse water can help water the grass. Use an automatic shut-off for the hose.
9. Tell your children not to play with the garden hose. Saves 10 gallons a minute.
10. If you allow your children to play in the sprinklers, make sure it's only when you're watering the yard — if it's not too cool at that time of day.
11. Xeriscape – replace your lawn and high water using trees and plants with less thirsty ones. But do this only in wet years. Even drought resistant plantings take extra water to get them going. That'll save 750 to 1,500 gallons a month.
12. When taking your car to a car wash — a good idea for saving water — be sure it's one of the many that recycles its wash water.
13. Dispose of hazardous materials properly! One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water, effectively eliminating that much water from our water supply. Contact your city or county for proper waste disposal options.



**Replace your lawn and high water using trees and plants with less thirsty ones.**