Town Hall Meeting

Drought Stage I Declared for Aurora
• 25% Colorado River Basin
• 25% Arkansas River Basin
• 50% S. Platte River Basin
• 12 reservoirs across the state
• Water can travel up to 180 miles
Prairie Waters System built in 2010 to recapture and reuse water from the South Platte River.
How can we be in drought?

• Media reports on a statewide/basin wide averages
  – 114 snow measurement stations across Colorado
  – Aurora relies on is only 16 of the SNOTEL sites
Snowpack to fill reservoirs
Snowpack to fill reservoirs
## Current Triggers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Availability Stage</th>
<th>NORMAL</th>
<th>Stage I SEVERELY DRY</th>
<th>Stage II EXCEPTIONALLY DRY</th>
<th>Stage III EMERGENCY CONDITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trigger - Months of supply based on current demand</td>
<td>Above 30 months</td>
<td>30-25 months</td>
<td>24-13</td>
<td>12 months or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand Reduction Recommendation (outdoor use only)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Water Management Plan Implementation

• “Water Availability” Resolution from City Council

• Use of “Water Availability” Stages
  – Limits outdoor water use only - Irrigation primarily
    • Day per week restrictions
    • Enforceable through fines attached to water bill
  – Can result in surcharges to rates
Aurora Declares Drought starting May 1

Stage 1 Drought

- Watering maximum 2 days/week
- Variance program allows flexible irrigation scheduling as long as efficiency standards are met (includes a 20% reduction goal)
- Turf grass may go dormant (not dead)
- No fines for grass dormancy
# Watering Days

**Stage I – Severely Dry – Watering Schedule**

*drought surcharge in effect per City Ordinance Section 138-223 - Water rates and charges*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVEN</strong> Address</td>
<td><strong>Additional City needs</strong></td>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td><strong>ODD</strong> Address</td>
<td><strong>EVEN</strong> Address</td>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td><strong>ODD</strong> Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Customers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Residential customers</td>
<td>Residential customers</td>
<td>Residential customers</td>
<td>Multi-family, HOA, Non-residential</td>
<td>Residential customers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drought Surcharges – Stage I

How it works

• Winter Quarter Average (WQA) – Dec-Jan-Feb usage average
• Only usage above WQA+10% is subject to the surcharge
• 10% added to provide a small cushion
• A Minimum WQA floor of 5,000 gallons is established for residential customers this helps snowbirds and small families
• Irrigation customers are surcharged on all usage
## Drought Surcharges – Stage I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stage 1</th>
<th>Stage 2</th>
<th>Stage 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential Surcharges</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 110% WQA</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 110% WQA</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$7.60</td>
<td>$12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial Surcharges</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 110% WQA</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 110% WQA</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$7.60</td>
<td>$12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multifamily Surcharges</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 110% WQA</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 110% WQA</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$7.60</td>
<td>$12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irrigation Surcharges</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Usage</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$7.60</td>
<td>$25.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outdoor Water Use & Best Practices
Variance Program

• Allows a property to run irrigation 7 days per week (each zone max. 2 days/week)

• Monthly reports comparing actual usage to a recommended use:
  – Adjusted to size of landscape and weather
  – Must stay under 120% of year-to-date recommended

• Drought Stage I
  o 20% outdoor usage reduction factored into recommended use
Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices: Understand the Property

1. Conduct irrigation assessment
2. Keep notes on sprinkler schedule
3. Map irrigation
   - Meters
   - Backflows
   - Looped system?
   - Shut-off valves
   - Controllers
   - Rain sensors
   - Zone map
   - Maintenance boundaries
Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices: Proper Scheduling

Cycle and Soak
- Cycle three times
- 1 hour between cycles

Permanent restrictions
- No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Max 3 days/week
  (Stage 1 drought: 2 days/week)
Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices: Efficient Parts

Efficient parts:
- Pressure regulation
- Check valves
- Rotary nozzles
- Smart systems

Rebates available:
- Bodies
- Nozzles
- Smart controllers
- Rain sensors
Grass Dormancy

• Dormancy is hibernation, not death
• Temporary: no more than 4 weeks
• Reduces water consumption by approximately 85% while dormant
• No foot traffic, mowing or fertilizing during dormancy
• Follow industry best practices for reviving turf after dormancy
• Visit our grass dormancy page AuroraGov.org/Dormancy
Water-wise Landscapes
What is Water-wise? Not this.
This is Water-wise!
Grass Replacement Incentive Program

- Remove healthy grass and install a water-wise landscape
  - HOA’s: Max. $50,000
    - Any area with healthy turf
  - Residents: Max. $4,000 ($1,000 for labor or tool rental)
    - Front yards and streetscapes only
- Pre-approval and application required
- Multi-year payment schedules
Indoor Water Use & Best Practices
1,250 gallons per person per month is considered efficient indoor use in Aurora.
Indoor Best Practices: Check for Leaks, Replace Old Toilets

Toilet tank parts ~ 5 year life
Pressure assist tanks ~ 10 year life

Leaks are often silent
Check toilets for leaks each year

Leaks never get better on their own, they only get worse!
Get the Word Out

• Newsletter
• Postcards
• Flyers on doors
• Presentations to boards/residents
Other Ways We Help You Save Water

**Indoors**
- Free indoor water assessments
- Low-income water efficiency program

**Outdoors**
- Aurora Water-wise Garden – set up a tour
- Free outdoor water assessments
- Free water-wise designs (residential front yards only)
- Water conservation classes
- Recommendations for HOA design guidelines
What questions do you have?
What would you like to learn more about?

Water Conservation
conservation@auroragov.org
303-739-7195