

California and Santa Clara Valley Water District Adopt Emergency Conservation Regulations and Ordinances to Restrict or Eliminate Outdoor Watering

Reduce or Stop Outdoor Watering to Avoid Fines

On May 24, 2022, the **State Water Resources Control Board** adopted Emergency Conservation Regulations that require all Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (non-residential) water users to stop using water to irrigate decorative (non-functional) grass areas. Beginning June 10, 2022, violations of this restriction are punishable by fining up to \$500 for each day water is used to irrigate non-functional turf.

The use of water for trees and other perennial non-turf plantings is permitted to the extent necessary to preserve the health of trees and other non-turf landscape plantings.

In addition, the **Santa Clara Valley Water District** has adopted an ordinance making the waste of water punishable by fining up to \$10,000. Wasting water includes, but is not limited to, watering outdoor areas more than two times per week, allowing water to runoff onto sidewalks and other paved areas, and using water to clean paved areas.

The drought is very serious, and these government agencies are taking action to stop the use of water for outdoor irrigation as much as possible. You do not need to let your trees die, but you do need to reduce the use of water outdoors. Most Californians use more water outdoors than indoors during the warmer months of the year. This needs to stop to preserve water supplies should the drought continue past this year.

Please do your part and stop or reduce outdoor watering to conserve our water supplies and to avoid the government issuing potentially very expensive fines.

The drought is serious. Increase your conservation efforts now!