

GUIDANCE FOR ACTION ITEM 5.18 – WATER WASTE POLICY IN THE WATER SUPPLY AND WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

On December 2, 2010 additional water conservation measures were adopted as amendments to the 2009 Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan. Action Item 5.18 – Water Waste Policy requires local governments and water providers to develop and adopt a water waste policy or ordinance in 2012. The level of detail may vary by local water provider. The description of this measure states that the Metro Water District will develop guidance for local governments to support local ordinance development. The policy outlined below is intended to serve as such general guidance. Jurisdictions and local water systems may use alternate language or modify the following policy language to achieve the level of detail desired for their water systems.

WATER WASTE POLICY OR ORDINANCE SAMPLE LANGUAGE

If it is found that there is a waste of water in or about any premises to which water is supplied from the [Water Utility] system, either by willful waste or by means of a leak in any water pipe or fixture located in or upon the premises, [Water Utility] may cause the water to be cut off from the premises upon reasonable notice to the occupant, unless special circumstances require that such waste shall be immediately stopped. Where the water supply is cut off as herein provided, the water shall not again be turned on until all water bills and the bill for the cost of cutting off and again turning on the water shall have been paid.

Water Utilities can further define the policy or ordinance with following optional sections:

Waste of Water Prohibitions

- A. The following uses are a waste or unreasonable use or method of use of water and are prohibited:
- (1) Allowing water to escape from any premises onto public right-of-way, such as streets and sidewalks, or upon any other person's property.
 - (2) Operating an irrigation system or other lawn or landscaping watering device during rain.
 - (3) Operating an irrigation system or other lawn or landscaping watering device that has any broken or missing sprinkler heads.
 - (4) Failing to repair a controllable leak, including a broken sprinkler head, or a leaking valve, or a leaking outdoor faucet, or a service line leak, or any other visible outside water leaks, on premises owned, leased, or managed by that person, within 30 days.
 - (5) Washing any vehicle with a hose and not having a water shut-off nozzle or allowing water to run continuously from a hose while washing any vehicle is also prohibited.

Exceptions

- A. The restrictions in this policy or ordinance do not apply to the following authorized uses:
- (1) Flow resulting from firefighting or routine inspection of fire hydrants or from fire training activities.
 - (2) Water applied as a dust control measure, as required by erosion and sedimentation rules.
 - (3) Water applied to abate spills of flammable or otherwise hazardous materials, where water is the appropriate methodology.
 - (4) Water applied to prevent or abate health, safety, or accident hazards when alternate methods are not available.
 - (5) Water used for construction or maintenance activities where the application of water is appropriate methodology and where no other practical alternative exists.
 - (6) Water used for power-washing hard surfaces to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards, unless prohibited by drought restrictions.
 - (7) Mobile car washes when approval or a special use permit is obtained from the local authority.
 - (8) Emptying of swimming pools for maintenance when proper local rules are followed.