



# RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Ramona Municipal Water District Implements Water Use Reduction Actions

#### Customers are encouraged to continue to use water wisely

On March 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-7-22](#) to address California's ongoing drought, directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to take further actions to increase water conservation efforts. The governor's action was in response to statewide drought conditions and historically low rainfall and snowfall levels that have caused water levels in state water reservoirs to remain well below average.

In response to the governor's call to action, SWRCB on May 24, 2022, adopted a statewide emergency regulation. The new regulation requires urban water suppliers such as Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) to implement Level 2 demand reduction measures from their water shortage contingency plans, regardless of local water supply conditions. The order also bans irrigation of non-functional grass at commercial, industrial and institutional properties, and in homeowner's association common areas. The ban does not apply to residential lawns, community spaces or sports fields. RMWD is currently at a Level 1 Water Shortage Watch with voluntary water conservation measures.

RMWD and the San Diego region have worked together for decades to plan for water shortages, encourage conservation and invest in new water resources. These steps help protect the region against drought and are the reason why San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) indicates there are sufficient supplies to meet regional demand through at least five consecutive years of drought. SDCWA is the wholesale supplier of water to RMWD.

To meet state regulatory requirements and respond to statewide drought conditions, RMWD asks residents and businesses to take the following actions to save even more water. Please check your bill for your water use in units or gallons per day. One "unit" equals 748 gallons of water/ These actions go into effect on June 10, 2022.

- Limit outdoor watering at homes and businesses to two days per week, except for commercial growers, nurseries and those using recycled water like golf courses, parks, or open space.
- Limit irrigation systems to no more than 10 minutes per station unless using landscape irrigation systems with water efficient devices, including but not limited to: weather based controllers, drip/micro-irrigation systems and stream rotor sprinklers. There are **no** watering schedules based on even or odd-numbered addresses

- For businesses and institutions (schools, government property), stop irrigating turf that uses potable water, unless needed for health and safety reasons or to keep trees healthy. It's still OK to irrigate parks, school fields and sports fields using the measures above.
- Water residential and commercial landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only to reduce water loss due to evaporation, unless using a drip or micro-irrigation system.
- Stop water waste from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, overspray and misdirected sprinklers.
- Turn off irrigation during and 48 hours after rain.
- Don't wash down hard surfaces, such as driveways, patios, sidewalks and parking lots with a hose, unless necessary for safety or sanitation. If washing is necessary, divert wash water to landscaping, or capture water with a shop vacuum, to prevent water from running off to the street or storm drain.
- If washing a vehicle at home, use a bucket and hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.

In addition, restaurants should only serve water to customers upon request and hotels and motels should offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily, and prominently display this option in each guest room.

Additional ways to save water include:

- **Fix all leaks immediately** – *It's estimated ten percent of all homes have a leak that wastes 90 gallons of water every day. Common leaks include worn toilet flappers or dripping faucets. Fixing leaks saves water and can save about 10 percent on your monthly water bill.*
- **Take advantage of rebates and incentives** – *Interest in rebates for high efficiency clothes washers and toilets, rotary sprinkler nozzles, and turf replacement have been overwhelming. For more information on available rebates visit [socalwatersmart.com](http://socalwatersmart.com) today.*
- **Monitor your irrigation** – *Irrigation accounts for up to 60 percent of your monthly water use, with as much as half of that water wasted due to over-watering or runoff. Learn to adjust your irrigation controller to avoid over-watering (user manuals for most models can be found online). Check soil moisture regularly and adjust your watering schedule monthly. Turn your irrigation system off when rain is projected. Also, check sprinklers regularly looking for broken and clogged heads, or over spray. Consider upgrading to rotary sprinkler nozzles, a drip irrigation system or a weather "Smart" irrigation controller.*
- **Eliminate unused turf** – *Remove unused turf and focus efficient irrigation practices on active turf, trees or vegetable gardens. The drought is forcing everyone to make difficult decisions because restricting irrigation will stress your plants and even kill some turf. Prioritize areas that will and won't get water this summer, irrigating only high value areas.*

Keep in mind that RMWD does not have jurisdiction over property owners who use well water.

Thank you for your support of water conservation. Each individual effort adds up and helps to protect our water supply as the drought continues. While these additional prohibitions and water-saving measures are currently voluntary for RMWD customers, state officials have indicated that mandatory water use restrictions will be imposed if the current methods are not effective in reducing statewide potable water demands.