

Green Valley Domestic Water Improvement District Water Conservation Plan

The Green Valley Water District provides water to approximately 4,500 residential and commercial connections in the southwestern end of Green Valley, Arizona. All water for the users in the entire Santa Cruz River Valley is currently provided by pumping groundwater from the aquifer which stretches from northern Mexico to north of Sahuarita. That being said, we cannot afford to pump irresponsibly from this finite resource. Therefore, Green Valley Water District has drafted this conservation plan to encourage and educate our customers to be responsible water users and avoid waste wherever possible.

There are many ways that water consumers can be proactive about conservation and many resources exist to give more ideas on ways to reduce the amount of water used doing daily activities.

1. One of the easiest ways to save substantial amounts of water is to convert lush landscapes or grassy areas to Xeriscape landscapes with locally adapted drought-resistant plants.
2. Using drip irrigation rather than a garden hose can save substantial water by directing it to the root zone and not overwatering.
3. Periodically checking your home and yard and fixing small leaks can make a big difference.
4. If you see a visible water leak in or near the street, contact the Water District so they can assess and begin repair work; don't assume that someone has already reported it.

For more water conservation ideas, visit our website at www.gvwaterdistrict.com and click the link for "Water Conservation Tips" you may also visit our office for more information.

What is the Green Valley Water District currently doing to manage water resources? The following is a list of items that have been accepted by the Arizona Department of Water Resources as valid Best Management Practices.

1. Conversion to SMART water meters. The District is nearing completion of this multi-year project to replace manually read meters with meters that upload information several times daily. In this way, large water use events which may be leaks can be spotted earlier and investigated to control water loss.
2. Communication via website, water bills, and other print or digital mediums encouraging our customers to participate in water conservation.
3. Establishment and maintenance of a Xeriscape demonstration garden as well as literature in the office to help new residents choose low water use landscaping materials.
4. Participation in Industry and Regional Partnerships such as USCPUG, (Upper Santa Cruz Providers and Users Group), and SAWUA, (Southern Arizona Water Users Association), to stay current on the latest information and practices.
5. The Green Valley Water District staff notifies customers and investigates abnormally high-water usage that could indicate a leak.
6. District water rates are structured to encourage water conservation by having tiered rates. Customers who use more water pay a higher rate as they move up to a higher tier.
7. The District focuses on long-range planning to ensure water resources will be available far into the future rather than focusing on short-range returns.

Drought Response/Curtailment Measures:

Drought vs. Water shortage: Drought is a weather phenomenon where there is significantly less precipitation than normal for an extended period. Because Green Valley Water District relies on groundwater, a drought condition may exist but does not necessarily equate to a water shortage. A water shortage could happen due to a failure of infrastructure or natural disaster. If a water shortage were to occur the Green Valley Water District would act to limit water consumption while making repairs to return everyone to normal conditions.

Should a situation arise where the Green Valley Water District is unable to meet demand for a period of time due to equipment failure, natural disaster, etc. the District will use some or all of the following methods to notify customers: email blast, notice on our website and office bulletin board, sandwich board notices in front of our office at 3200 S. Camino Del Sol, and by contacting the HOAs for which we have current contact information. The following steps will be taken to address the situation:

1. A Stage 1 (Warning) response will be declared by the Board, on the written advice of the District Manager, when the District is unable to adequately meet demand, and our storage capacity cannot be maintained at 80% of maximum levels. Select response measures for this stage include:
 - a. Increase customer awareness about the acute condition and water resources through education.
 - b. Request customers to limit landscape irrigation to two days per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and avoid other outdoor water uses.
 - c. Request that customers avoid outdoor water use and discontinue use of outdoor fountains or other water features.
2. A Stage 2 (Emergency) response will be declared by the Board, upon the written recommendation of the District Manager, when the acute situation has continued, and District storage capacity cannot be maintained at 60% of maximum levels. Select response measures for this stage include:
 - a. Continuation of all previous actions under Stage 1.
 - b. Additional voluntary water reduction measures will be requested from customers including the limiting of landscape irrigation to one day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
 - c. In addition to avoiding outdoor water use, customers will be asked not to empty or fill their pools.
 - d. The Board will implement an EMERGENCY surcharge of \$250.00 for any residential customer using more than 3,000 gallons of water over a 72-hour period.
3. A Stage 3 (Crisis) response will be declared by the Board, upon the written recommendation of the District Manager, when the District determines the acute situation has become a crisis and District storage levels cannot be maintained at 40% of maximum levels. Select response measures for this stage include:
 - a. Continuation of Stage 1 and 2 response actions.
 - b. No new water service agreements will be approved.

- c. Customers will be requested to limit landscape irrigation ONLY to trees and shrubs one day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and no irrigation of turf or ground covers.
- d. The Board will implement an EMERGENCY surcharge of an additional \$250.00 for a total surcharge of \$500.00 for any residential customer using more than 3,000 gallons of water over a 72-hour period.

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