

SWRCB Term 15 Milestone 2 Report (Windsor Update)

The Town of Windsor is continuing implementation of Stage Two Water Shortage Reduction Measures as outlined in the Town's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and as passed by resolution on July 1, 2009. Because the Town of Windsor is 100% reliant on Russian River Water for supply, businesses and residents are being asked to reduce irrigation by 50% based on 2004 water use, with businesses following a water budget approach and residents restricted to three days per week irrigation.

Water waste patrols are occurring daily throughout the Town's water service area during regular business hours to enforce water waste regulations that prohibit excess irrigation, overspray, and runoff, and to enforce the three days a week residential irrigation restriction. The Town is relying on Parks and Streets Maintenance staff for water waste enforcement Friday through Sunday, when the Town offices are closed. Town staff issued 85 written warnings for the month of July, 2009 for water waste or for irrigating outside of allowed days and times. Of the 85 warnings, 77 were first time offenses and 8 were second warnings. Fines are levied if no correction has been made after the second warning. No fines were levied in July.

Public outreach and education continues through bi-monthly bill inserts, direct mail postcards, greater numbers of banners in prominent locations in Town, phone outreach to businesses, an information kiosk at weekly Town Green music events, and a public access television slideshow. A graphic of the Town's water use is available on the Town's website that is updated weekly showing the Town's current water use compared to the 25% conservation goal. The Town was at a 19% reduction as of July 31.

The Town's popular water fountain on the Town Green has been drained and signage erected to raise water conservation awareness. A press release was issued regarding the draining of the fountain, with a follow-up article appearing in the local Windsor Times newspaper.

All of the Town maintained landscaping that is irrigated with potable water has been reduced to meet a 50% reduction in irrigation water use as outlined in the Town's resolution declaring a Stage Two Water Shortage Emergency. These Town landscapes are showing significant water stress at this time.

Town staff is working with the Airport Business Park management and business owners to meet the Town's 50% reduction mandate for commercial irrigation. Two meetings were conducted in July, one at the Airport Business Center's offices and one at Sonoma County Water Agency to make these businesses aware of the State Order and of the Town of Windsor's 50% reduction requirement for commercial landscape irrigation. More frequent meter reads by Airport Business Park staff are being undertaken for these businesses to monitor progress during the period of the Order.

The Town's Water Efficient Landscape program provided incentives to 14 participants in July that removed or transformed over 7000 square feet of turf to low water use landscapes. Since last summer's program inception over 30,000 square feet of turf has been replaced with low or no water use landscaping. The Town also has ongoing programs to provide incentives to install high efficiency toilets and clothes washers.