

CITY OF AZTEC, NEW MEXICO WATER CONSERVATION PLAN



A PLAN PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION, CONSERVATION AND RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF WATER FROM THE CITY OF AZTEC, NEW MEXICO WATER SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING YEAR ROUND WATER CONSERVATION PLAN APPLICABLE TO ALL CITIZENS, BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL CUSTOMERS SERVICED BY THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM.

The City deems it necessary to create a water conservation program to conserve on the amount of water used by citizens, businesses, industrial, and governmental customers serviced by the City's Water System and thereby implements water conservation measures to establish attainable benefits.

1. A reduction of water use resulting in decreased demand, decreases in customers' water bills, and a reduction in per capita water consumption.
2. Conservation/Preserving of the current water supplies while additional sources of water are identified and brought into production thus preserving the quality of life and general welfare of the citizens of the City.
3. Establishing/Implement policies that create best water use practices for City water customers in a semi-arid area.
4. Creating/Opportunities for customers to realize economic benefits through the conservative use of water.

I. PUBLIC NOTICE

- A. Public notice of "Potential Water Shortage" shall be in effect, no later than May informing when the Water Superintendent has identified average water content amounts at the City's diversion point(s). Public notices may occur at any time during the aforementioned period.
- B. The City's Water Superintendent shall report information to the City Manager describing average daily river flows, daily water consumption and current reservoir storage as well as average snow water equivalent. Said information will be provided throughout the entire year. Public announcements may occur at any time.
- C. The City Manager and Staff shall inform the general public through local news media or other public forums of the implementation of Drought Condition Stages and provide information and/or resources on how to conserve water. Furthermore, the City Utility Billing Department shall provide a notice to Water Customers about the implementation of "STAGES" through the Customer Utility Bills.
- D. The Water Superintendent and/or the City Manager shall consult with the Office of the State Engineer and other appropriate agencies, including acequia officials, water districts and other pertinent organizations to maximize the effectiveness of City water conservation policies.

II. CONSERVATION SIGNAGE AND LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

- A. Public, Semi-Public, and Governmental Restroom and Shower Facilities. These facilities shall post no less than one water conservation sign in each restroom or shower room or room(s) adjacent thereto, the size of which shall not be less than 8.5 by 11 inches. Entities shall display a water conservation sign which will reference the ordinance supporting this water plan. Postings shall be displayed in a visible location. Notification to these entities will come from the City Manager or his/her designee.
- B. Hotels, Motels, Beds and Breakfasts, and Lodging Facilities. These facilities shall include a water conservation informational card or brochure in a visible location in each guest room. Lodging facilities are strongly encouraged to offer their guests the option of not having daily linen and towel changes for multiple night stays. Notification will occur the same as in Section II A.
- C. Retail Plant Nurseries. Retail plant nurseries shall provide their "end use customers" with low-water use landscape literature and water efficient irrigation guidelines at the time of sale of any outdoor perennial plants. An "end-use customer" is the person or persons who will ultimately own the plant material. A landscape contractor or architect is not an end-use customer. In order to facilitate the purchasing of low water use plants, nurseries are strongly encouraged to tag

or sign their low-water use plants. Notification will occur the same as in Section II A.

- D. Landscape Contractors and Architects. Landscape contractors and architects shall provide their prospective clients with low-water use landscape literature and water efficient irrigation guidelines at the time of presenting a service contract to the prospective client. Landscape professionals are strongly encouraged to educate their customers regarding the operation of their timed irrigation systems. Notification will occur the same as in Section II A.
- E. Realtors, Title Companies, Attorneys, Banks, and Other Closing Real Estate Transactions. These individuals and/or entities shall provide the party purchasing a home, business, or property with indoor and outdoor water conservation literature at the time of closing. Notification will occur in the same fashion as in Section II A.
- F. City Departments. The City shall provide indoor and outdoor conservation literature or resources for such information to all customers and entities listed in Section II A-E initiating new water service from the City of Aztec. Information will be available in the Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Utility Departments.

III. INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

- A. Water System Leaks from Private Water Lines. Leaks shall be repaired by the owner or property manager within 15 days of initial notification by the water utility. Proof of repair shall be provided to the water utility upon completion of the repair.
- B. Water Conservation Plumbing. All new and remodeling construction shall meet the following standards and notification will be provided by the Authority having jurisdiction.
 - (1) Restrooms. Restrooms, either flush tank, flushometer tank, or flushometer valve operated, shall have an average consumption of not more than 1.6 gallons (6.1 liters) of water per flush.
 - (2) Urinals. Urinals shall have an average water consumption of not more than 1.03 gallons (3.8 liters) per flush
 - (3) Non-Metered Faucets. Lavatory and kitchen faucets shall be equipped with aerators and shall be designed and manufactured so that they will not exceed a water flow rate of 2.5 gallons (9.5 liters) per minute.
 - (4) Metered Faucets. Self-closing metering faucets shall be installed on lavatories intended to serve the transient public, such as those in, but not limited to, service stations, airports, restaurants, and convention halls. Metered faucets shall deliver not more 1.5 gallons (5.7 liters) per use.

- (5) Shower Heads. Shower heads shall be designed and manufactured so that they will not exceed a water supply flow rate of 2.5 gallons (9.5) liters per minute. Emergency safety showers are exempted from this provision.
 - (6) Installation. Water-conserving fixtures shall be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturers' instructions to maintain rated performance.
 - (7) Washing Machines. High efficiency front loader washing machines are highly recommended and shall be promptly installed, except where representatives agree that installation not economically feasible.
- C. Eating Establishments. All public and private eating establishments shall provide water only upon request. Catering and banquet operations are exempt from this requirement.

IV. IRRIGATION AND OTHER OUTDOOR USES

If utilizing City provided water for irrigation purposes and unless otherwise specified differently in Section VII, the following outdoor water irrigation conservation measures shall be observed at all times during announced water shortages:

- A. Irrigation of lawns, trees bushes, shrubs, gardens, flowers, and all types of vegetative matter shall occur only during the early morning from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or late evening from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. No watering is allowed if winds are moderate breezy conditions (13-18 mph as defined by Beaufort Wind Scale) or greater. Sprinklers shall be shut off when it is raining.
- B. Irrigation shall be permitted on "even" numbered calendar days at locations with even numbered street addresses and "odd" numbered calendar days at locations with odd numbered addresses. These restrictions shall apply to all residents and all businesses, institutions and industrial facilities, using City provided water, possessing lawns, golf courses, gardens, trees or shrubs and shall also apply to all public parks, medians and public and private properties owned by the City, County, and State. These restrictions shall also apply to any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of growing or selling plants.
- C. A customer shall not let water leave the customer's property by drainage onto adjacent properties or public or private roadways or streets due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks.
- D. Shut off nozzles shall be required on all hoses used for hand watering, washing of vehicles, or any other type of outdoor water use.
- E. Homes, commercial establishments, and governmental entities that have large landscaped areas where daily active use, water pressure limitations, or inadequate irrigation equipment that restricts the owner's ability to irrigate within

the time limits of Section A and Section B above, may designate a portion of its landscape area as “even” and a portion as “odd”. The Water Department or Manager’s office shall be advised of this designation prior to irrigating. The owner shall submit an irrigation plan with a detailed map showing “even” and “odd” irrigation areas.

- F. Individuals or entities that own acequia rights for irrigating lands also served by City water shall use acequia supplies thereon, to the extent available, prior to the use of City water. Likewise, owners of private wells authorized for such use will pump such wells for outdoor irrigation prior to, and in lieu of use of City water thereon, to the extent such well-water is available.

V. EXCEPTIONS

Unless otherwise specified differently in Section VII, the following irrigation methods and types of uses are exempt from Section IV.

- A. Sod and Landscaping. Newly installed sod and landscaping, prior to Stage I or II. Due to the need of newly installed sod and landscaping to establish a root system, a sixty (60) day exemption period may be allowed. Residents, commercial establishments, and all other entities shall apply for said sixty (60) day exemption by advising the Water Department and if approved, providing a copy of a proper bill of sale. The sixty (60) day exemption shall be effective beginning the day of the date of the bill of sale. Violators will be subject to Section IX B, wherever acequia rights, water district/association rights or private wells are lawfully available for this purpose; such waivers shall not be granted, in whole or in part. The exemption is for newly installed turf sod or landscaping only and not for other new or existing landscaping (trees or shrubs). Nursery Stock-Plants being irrigated for retail or wholesale are exempt.
- B. Irrigation Using Treated Effluent. Prior to the application of treated effluent, under written agreement with the City, the proper notice of intent form seeking approval from the New Mexico Environment Department must be completed. Copies of the completed form and of the Notice of Approval shall be provided to the Water Department prior to the use of treated effluent.
- C. Timed Irrigation Systems. Landscape companies, property owners, licensed plumbers or individuals setting timed irrigation systems shall ensure that systems comply with time and day restrictions. Ultimate responsibility for compliance lies with the property owner.
- D. Water Treatment and Waste Water Treatment Plants. The City of Aztec Water Treatment and Waste Water Treatment Plants are exempt from the ordinance in its maintenance practices of washing down and back flushing of equipment using treated water.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

The City Manager or designee to include but not limited to the Water Superintendent, City Police Department, and Code Enforcement will enforce the supporting Ordinance in the following manner:

A. Education.

- (1) The City Manager, Water Superintendent and other City Department will inform the public of the water conservation measures of this Plan. Public information/education will be conducted for a reasonable time, with various methods, so as to allow the public to become informed of said conservation measures.
- (2) The City Administration Office, with assistance from the Water Superintendent, will maintain a continuing education program concerning water conservation to include the measures of this Plan and supporting Ordinance throughout the year, as needed.

B. Violation/Penalties. The following procedure and applicable penalty will be used in addressing violations of the supporting Ordinance upon observation or reasonable suspicion of said violation.

- (1) The first violation shall result in the issuance of a notice of violation to the party committing said violation. The citation shall advise the party of the nature of the offense and of the section of the Plan and supporting Ordinance that has been violated. The result of the first violation shall be the distribution of a copy of this Plan and Supporting Ordinance and an education packet containing information on water conservation to the party committing the violation.
- (2) Upon observation of/or reasonable suspicion of a second violation, a citation shall be issued to the party violating this Plan and supporting Ordinance advising the party of specific violations and include penalty fee to be assessed through the Utility Billing. The penalty for the second violation will be consistent with the penalty noted in Section IX A-D, depending on the declared stage of drought.
- (3) Repeated violations will be consistent with the penalty noted in Section IX A-D, depending on the declared stage of drought.

VII. DROUGHT CONDITION MEASURES

The City Manager, upon consultation with the City Commission and the Water Superintendent, shall determine when each stage is to be implemented based on operational requirements and predicted/actual water supply limitations. Implementation of stages may not be sequential and the duration will be determined by the City

Manager, upon consultation with the City Commission and the Water Superintendent. The following stages of water conservation measures will be implemented when conditions are warranted.

A. STAGE I

- (1) No customer shall use any city provided water to irrigate any lawn, garden, tree or shrub except between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and/or between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. of any day on which irrigation is permitted. No watering will be allowed if windy conditions greater than 12 mph exist.

Address	Water On	Times Permitted
Even Numbered	Even Numbered Days	4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. AND/OR 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Odd Numbered	Odd Numbered Days	4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. AND/OR 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

These restrictions shall apply to all residents, businesses, institutions and industrial facilities, irrigating with City provided water possessing lawns, gardens, trees or shrubs and shall also apply to all parks and properties owned by the City, County and State. These restrictions shall not apply to a person, firm, or corporation engaging in business of growing or selling plants. To avoid conflicting with publicly scheduled water usage and to minimize impacts to reserves at the water plant facility, an alternate schedule for City parks may be authorized by the City Manager when provided by the General Services Department.

- (2) Concrete, cement, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces shall not be washed down with City provided water through a hose unless there is a hazard to be removed. Washing down of impervious surfaces is permissible if water has been transported. The Water Department, Public Works and the Fire Department shall be advised of said hazard. Surfaces include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, parking lots, ramps and loading docks.
- (3) Swimming pools and spas/hot tubs filled prior to the implementation of STAGE I and utilizing city treated water shall not add water to make up losses through evaporation of splashing, through draining or through leaks while STAGE I is in effect. Unless the water is transported in from another source or means, swimming pools and spas/hot tubs cannot be filled with city provided water once STAGE I or any other subsequent stage has been implemented. Any enclosed swimming pool owned by the municipality or public school is exempt.
- (4) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to their customers except when specifically requested by the customer(s).

- (5) Ornamental fountains may operate if they re-circulate water but not when winds exceed 12 mph. Ornamental fountains that do not re-circulate water are prohibited.
- (6) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, related activities or other activities necessary to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens served by the municipal water system. Metered use of hydrants may be allowed at the Water Superintendent discretion. The Fire Chief shall restrict floor washing at fire stations to when absolutely necessary.
- (7) No water shall be used to wash vehicles except at places of businesses whose service include the washing of vehicles where high pressure wash is utilized either by self service or fully automated process or vehicle dealerships which utilize high pressure wash equipment. Washing of vehicles at such businesses is permitted for the entire week.

B. STAGE II

- (1) No customer shall use any city provided water to irrigate any lawn, garden, tree or shrub except between the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. of any day on which irrigation is permitted. No watering will be allowed if windy conditions greater than 12 mph exist.

Address	Water On	Times Permitted
Even Numbered	Wednesdays & Saturdays Only	4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. OR 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Odd Numbered	Thursdays & Sundays Only	4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. OR 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

These restrictions shall apply to all residents, businesses, institutions and industrial facilities, irrigating with City provided water possessing lawns, gardens, trees, or shrubs and shall also apply to all parks and properties owned by the City, County and State. These restrictions shall not apply to a person, firm or corporation engaging in the business growing or selling plants. Persons or businesses growing or selling plants shall only use City provided water. To avoid conflicting with publicly scheduled water usage and to minimize impacts to reserves at the water plant facility, an alternate schedule for City parks may be authorized by the City Manager when provided by the General Services Department.

- (2) Concrete, cement, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces shall not be washed down with a hose or other means of transported water, unless there is a hazard to be removed. The Water Department, Public Works and the Fire

Department shall be advised of said hazard. Surfaces include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, parking lots, ramps and loading docks.

- (3) No swimming pools or spas/hot tubs will be filled and no City provided water shall be added to any swimming pool or spa/hot tub, unless the water is transported in from another source or means. Any enclosed swimming pool owned by the municipality or public school is exempt.
- (4) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to their customers except when specifically requested by the customer(s).
- (5) Ornamental fountains may operate if they re-circulate water, but not when windy conditions exceeding 12 mph exist. Ornamental fountains that do not re-circulate water are prohibited from operation. Refilling with City supplied water is prohibited.
- (6) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, related activities or other activities necessary to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens served by the municipal water system. Metered use of hydrants may be allowed at the Water Superintendent discretion. The Fire Chief shall restrict floor washing at fire stations to when absolutely necessary.
- (7) No water shall be used to wash vehicles except at places of businesses whose service include the washing of vehicles where high pressure wash is utilized either by self service or fully automated process or vehicle dealerships which utilize high pressure wash equipment. Washing of vehicles at such businesses is permitted for the entire week.

C. STAGE III

- (1) No customer shall use any city provided water to irrigate any lawn, garden, tree or shrub except between the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. of any day on which irrigation is permitted. No watering will be allowed if windy conditions greater than 12 mph exist.

Address	Water On	Times Permitted
Even Numbered	Wednesdays Only	4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. OR 6:00 p.m. and 10:00
Odd Numbered	Thursdays Only	4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. OR 6:00 p.m. and 10:00

These restrictions shall apply to all residents, businesses, institutions and industrial facilities, irrigating with City provided water possessing lawns, gardens, trees, or shrubs and shall also apply to all parks and properties owned by the City, County and State. To avoid conflicting with publicly scheduled water usage and to minimize impacts to reserves at the water

plant facility, an alternate schedule for City parks may be authorized by the City Manager when provided by the General Services Department.

- (2) Concrete, cement, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces shall not be washed down with a hose or other means of transported water, unless there is a hazard to be removed. The Water Department, Public Works and the Fire Department shall be advised of said hazard. Surfaces include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, parking lots, ramps and loading docks.
- (3) No swimming pools or spas/hot tubs will be filled and no City provided water shall be added to any swimming pool or spa/hot tub, unless the water is transported in from another source or means. Any enclosed swimming pool owned by the municipality or public school is exempt.
- (4) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to their customers except when specifically requested by the customer(s).
- (5) All ornamental fountains are prohibited from operation.
- (6) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, related activities or other activities necessary to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens served by the municipal water system. Metered use of hydrants may be allowed at the Water Superintendent discretion. The Fire Chief shall restrict floor washing at fire stations to when absolutely necessary.
- (7) No water shall be used to wash vehicles except at places of businesses whose service include the washing of vehicles where high pressure wash is utilized by self service. Businesses, whose services include the washing of automobiles or vehicles, shall be allowed to use City provided water for washing of automobiles between the hours of noon and 8:00 p.m. for the entire week with automatic washers shut down completely. Washing of vehicles where the health, safety and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleanings, such as refuse collection trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables, are exempt.
- (8) No new accounts will be issued for bulk water sales, except new residential construction during STAGE III and IV.
- (9) Emergency restrictions may also include City action to restrict the use of private wells and/or ditches, as deemed necessary by the State Engineers Office, to the extent authorized by State law.

D. STAGE IV

Said emergency restriction may be temporary or long term based upon the nature of the emergency, and shall include, when and as necessary, municipal action as authorized by law, to take control of the Animas River System to protect it during actual or predicted drought conditions. The City Manager, Water Superintendent and/or Staff shall make public announcements through the local news media defining STAGE IV. Announcements shall describe the following restrictions.

- (1) All STAGE III measures not otherwise addressed in this section will remain in effect.
- (2) No outside watering using City treated water or City irrigation water is allowed.
- (3) **Residential water users** will be provided water to the extent that the City of Aztec and the City of Bloomfield are capable of providing treated water.
- (4) **Residential water sales** will be subject to emergency water rates and will pay for usage above 15,000 gallons in the following manner:

16,000 to 25,000 gallons:	\$5. ⁰⁰ per 1,000 gallons
Greater than 25,000 gallons:	\$10. ⁰⁰ per 1,000 gallons

This will be in effect at the next full billing cycle.
- (5) **Commercial water users** will be provided water to the extent that the City of Aztec and the City of Bloomfield are capable of providing treated water. Further restrictions could be enforced depending upon the supply and availability of water.
- (6) **Commercial water sales** will be subject to emergency water rates and will pay an additional \$1.⁰⁰ per 1,000 gallons on all usage.
- (7) No water will be added to any pools or spas.
- (8) Ornamental fountains will not operate.
- (9) Exceptions to any of the above will be at the City Manager's discretion.

VIII. SPECIAL USE AND RESTRICTIONS

The following type of special uses and restrictions shall apply:

- A. Landscape companies, properly licensed by the City of Aztec, shall comply with the following:
 - (1) Irrigation for maintenance service shall be conducted as per Section II. Irrigation during regular year round water conservation and Section VII during times when additional water conservation measures are deemed necessary.
 - (2) Irrigation systems for all new commercial and multi-family residential developments are to be installed with automatic timing controllers. Irrigation systems are to be designed to avoid over spray or drainage of water onto any paved or unplanted surface and follow same time and day restriction practices.
- B. New construction or remodeling by Commercial Contractors and Private Individuals: Commercial Contractors are required to obtain the proper building permit. Said construction shall meet standards outlined in Section III.

IX. ENFORCEMENT of STAGE I, II, III and IV DROUGHT CONDITIONS MEASURES

All violations of Stage I, II, III and IV shall come under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court of Aztec, New Mexico. Fine monies will be placed in the Joint Utility Fund to offset reductions in revenue. Terminations and reestablishments of services shall be determined by the City Manager with advice from the Police Department, Finance Director and the Water Director. Any person, business, institution or industrial plant found in violation of the supporting Ordinance shall be penalized as follows:

Enforcement

A. STAGE I

- (1) First Violation: Issuance of Notice of Violation as per Section VI B.
- (2) Second Violation: A penalty of \$50.⁰⁰ assessed through the Utility Billing.
- (3) Third Violation: A penalty of \$75.⁰⁰ assessed through the Utility Billing.
- (4) Fourth Violation: Water service may be restricted or suspended.

B. STAGE II

- (1) First Violation: Issuance of Notice of Violation as per Section VI B.
- (2) Second Violation: A penalty of \$125.⁰⁰ assessed through the Utility Billing.
- (3) Third Violation: Water service may be restricted or suspended.

C. STAGE III. AUTHORITY TO DECLARE EMERGENCY

- (1) First Violation: Issuance of Notice of Violation as per Section VI B.
- (2) Second Violation: A penalty of \$175.⁰⁰ assessed through the Utility Billing.
- (3) Third Violation: Water service may be restricted or suspended.

D. STAGE IV. FURTHER RESTRICTION PENALTIES

- (1) First Violation: Issuance of Notice of Violation as per Section VI B.
- (2) Second Violation: A penalty of \$300.⁰⁰ assessed through the Utility Billing.
- (3) Third Violation: Water service may be suspended.

X. DEFINITIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL

May be granted by City Manager and/or Water Director.

CITY PROVIDED WATER

Water which is diverted or pumped from surface water and/or well sources and supplied to all citizens, businesses, industrial and governmental customers.

DRIP IRRIGATION

Low pressure, low volume irrigation applied slowly, near or at ground level to minimize runoff and loss to evaporation.

EVEN-NUMBERED PROPERTIES

Properties who's official address ends in an even number. Landscaped areas associated with a building will use the number of that building as their address. Only one address shall be used for al large landscaped area associated with one building or activity, even if the landscaped area is broken into many separate sub-areas.

ODD-NUMBERED PROPERTIES

Properties who's official address ends in and odd number. Conditions except dates of watering are the same as EVEN-NUMBERED PROPERTIES.

SEMI-PUBLIC

Any private clubs and/or fraternal organizations.

SERVICE AREA

All customers receiving water service from the City of Aztec water source.

SHUT OFF NOZZLE

Device attached to end of hose that completely off the flow, even if left unattended.

TREATED EFFLUENT WATER

A non-potable water source, which has been deemed acceptable for the intended use, by the State of New Mexico Environment Department.

WATER WASTE

The non-beneficial use of water.