



# STATE OF CA CALLS FOR STRICT WATER CONSERVATION RULES

## *Think Outside the Sink!*

### *Conserving Water Outdoors is Where it Counts*

When it comes to using water, we should adopt the slogan “Use only what you need, only when you need it.” This will undoubtedly reduce monthly water bills during California’s current drought conditions. Most people do not realize that up to 70 percent of the average person’s annual water usage occurs outdoors. Now with the State mandating new rules along with potential fines, all water purveyors are required to impose restrictions on water use.

In hopes of ramping up California’s conservation effort, Gov. Jerry Brown called for the state’s first ever mandatory water reductions on April 1. The rules call for a 25 percent reduction in water consumption across the Golden State. To meet this figure, areas with residential customers who use over 165 gallons per day will have to cut consumption by 35 percent; areas that use less than 55 gallons per day are only required to cut consumption by 10 percent. Unfortunately, Bakersfield falls under the former category and will have to curb water usage by 35 percent. To reach the state’s goal, Bakersfield water purveyors have approved in concept, a plan to limit residents to three watering days each week.

The Board of Oildale Mutual voted to implement the following guidelines for outdoor water use, effective on May 1st:

Even numbered houses will be able to water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays and odd numbered houses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. No watering on Mondays. On

your respective watering days, we encourage all watering to take place between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. and that automatic sprinklers be set between midnight and 8 a.m. This will reduce the effects of evaporation before the water has a chance to reach the roots of your plants and lawn. In addition to the mandatory restrictions, citizens are prohibited from watering while it’s raining or within two days of rain, spraying down sidewalks and driveways, watering lawns to the point of causing runoff and washing vehicles with a hose lacking a shutoff nozzle.

In addition the Board voted to increase the level of fines issued for water wasting. After an initial warning for excessive water runoff, the Company will issue a \$25 fine, then a \$50 fine for the third offense and upon a fourth violation, the installation of a meter if none is in use. After all of these steps the Company may exercise its ability to discontinue water service. In addition, please do not drain and refill swimming pools unless absolutely necessary. If you have a serious algae problem that necessitates draining, please call the Company and we will be happy to stop by and confirm the state of your pool and required draining. Again, we are all in this drought together and as shareholders in our water Company, we must work cooperatively in order to avoid excessive fines from the State.

There are many ways people waste water outdoors, but overwatering is the biggest culprit. There’s no need to water four or



## ***Water is Precious***

# **PLEASE CONSERVE!**

five times a week. By watering outside only three times a week, more than 1000 gallons of water can be saved each month. Homeowners can take this a step further by waiting for their lawn to turn slightly brown and then running their sprinklers. Still worried about overwatering with these methods? A cool trick to tell if too much water is being used is to determine how easily water flows off the landscape. If water ends up in the gutter instead of the lawn, it's time to cut back. Leaking sprinklers can also waste hundreds of gallons of water per month, providing an incentive to repair faulty lines. Sprinklers can also be set during cooler times such as the morning to reduce evaporation.

“There are a lot of great ways to safeguard your water usage from inside the home,” says General Manager, Doug Nunneley, “but not enough attention is paid to outdoor water usage. It's outside the home, where 70 percent of water usage occurs, where you can really make an impact in the conservation effort.”

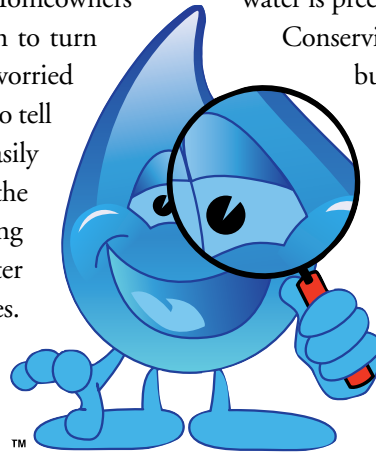
“Our water patrol will be on duty to insure all customers are aware of the regulations and abide by the State imposed regulations,” Nunneley said. “The drought is serious and all of us need to do

our part to minimize the effects of the drought. Remember – water is precious and every drop counts!”

Conserving water outdoors will have the biggest effect, but there is still a seemingly endless list of ways to save water within the household. The best way to save water in the home starts in the bathroom. Toilets can be responsible for up to 30 percent of all water use in the home, with older models using 3.5 gallons or more per flush. By installing a high efficiency toilet, the amount of gallons per flush is reduced to 1.28. Toilet leaks are also a big contributor as they can waste up to 60 gallons a day.

“It is imperative that in tough drought conditions like what we're still experiencing, that everyone does their part,” Nunneley emphasized. “Our customers do a great job and

we hope that these tips will serve as a helpful reminder. These simple steps can make a positive impact on our conservation efforts as a community.”



**Please Watch  
What You Use**

## Q&A on New State Water Regulations

### Q: What are the regulations mandated by the State?

A: New regulations prohibit outdoor watering while it's raining or within two days of rain and limit customers to three irrigation days per week. These rules add on to the existing list that restricts: individuals from spraying down sidewalks and driveways, watering lawns to the point of causing runoff and washing vehicles with a hose lacking a shutoff nozzle. The mandatory restrictions will also:

- Replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments.
- Direct the creation of a temporary, statewide consumer rebate program to replace old appliances with more water and energy efficient models;
- Require campuses, golf courses, cemeteries and other large landscapes to make significant cuts in water use.
- Prohibit new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless water-efficient drip irrigation systems are used, and ban watering of ornamental grass on public street medians.

### Q: How often can I water my lawn?

A: Each Bakersfield water purveyor will impose a restriction of

three watering days per week. Odd numbered houses will have the opportunity to water on Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday and even numbered houses will water on Wednesday-Friday-Sunday. We encourage automatic sprinklers to be set between midnight and 8 a.m. and manual watering to take place in the late evening after 6 p.m. and early morning before 10 a.m. to avoid the evaporation of water.

### Q: Why did Gov. Jerry Brown call for these regulations?

A: California is now in its fourth year of an on-going drought and there appears to be no end in sight. Last year, in response to a lack of precipitation and snowpack, Gov. Brown declared a drought state of emergency, setting in place the first batch of water restrictions in California. These water restrictions came with a voluntary call from Gov. Brown to reduce statewide water usage by 20 percent. The call received different levels of success throughout the state, but a further shortage of rain led Gov. Brown to call for a mandatory statewide reduction of water consumption by 25 percent. To reach the statewide goal, some communities are required to reduce usage by more than 25 percent. Bakersfield is one of those cities. Communities with residents who use more than 165 gallons of water per day are required to cut back by 35 percent.

**Q: What will happen if individuals overuse water?**

A: Our water patrol will be on duty to ensure all customers are aware of the regulations and abide by the State imposed regulations. Oildale Mutual will give one warning for water wasting, followed by a \$25 fine, then a \$50 fine and finally, the installation of a meter upon the fourth violation. After that the Company may discontinue water service.

**Please call our office if you have any questions on the State's water regulations.**

**661.399.5516**



## **NORMWD Board member Dennis Meier was an Asset to the Oildale Community**

Oildale Mutual Water Company lost a part of its family January 4, when Dennis Meier Sr. passed away peacefully in his sleep. Meier always stressed accountability and through his hard work he was able to bring it to the North of the River Municipal Water District.

During his tenure with the NORMWD, Meier reduced costs – saving money for Oildale residents. Meier originally campaigned for the board on the platform of streamlining the operations of NORMWD and Oildale Mutual Water Company to increase efficiency and minimize expenses to all customers in the Oildale area.

“Dennis Meier ran for the board to complete the integration of the NORMWD retail customers with OMWC, which would save customers a great deal of money,” said Doug Nunneley. “Meier

worked hard campaigning for integration and that cost-cutting integration was successfully completed on June 30, 2014.”

Meier spent a career learning all there was to know about water and its delivery. He laid water and gas pipelines for Rain for Rent for over three decades before happily retiring in 1999. Since his retirement, he and his loving wife Mary, of 57 years, spent most of their time in the company of their four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Meier was the definition of a family man and had a positive impact on everyone he interacted with.

When he found the time he enjoyed hunting, prospecting for gold in Alaska and buying and fixing up old properties for rental use. Simply put, there was nothing Meier couldn't do and we were fortunate to have him serve the people of Oildale.

## **Fred Hupp: A Most Dedicated Man**

As a board member of Oildale Mutual, Fred Hupp enjoyed the longest tenure in the history of the Company, a term only ending when he passed away on December 16th of last year. Fred came on board with Oildale Mutual Water Company in 1968 and played a critical part in the company's success through the years. He will be remembered as a humble man who always had the best interest of the people at heart.

Admittedly, he never had much of an interest in water until he realized he was an OMWC stockholder. That realization changed the course of his life and that of OMWC. In 1968, Hupp saw that OMWC was struggling financially and decided to join the Board to correct the problems. For the next 40+ years Hupp sat on the Board of Directors and accounted for the smallest of details to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Hupp was born in Denver, Colorado, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was married to Esther for 70 years.

After 24 years in the accounting field, Fred switched careers

and became employed by the Independent Order of Foresters in May 1972 until his retirement in April 2000.

Even after his retirement, Fred couldn't help but stay busy. Faith played an important role in the lives of the Hupps who were both pioneering members of Christ the King Catholic Church, where Fred served in “every role, but pastor.” Through the love of his faith and church, Fred was awarded the Benemerenti Medal for “long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community.”

“Fred was a rock-solid member of the Oildale Mutual Water Company family. He paid close attention to the numbers and that fiscal responsibility benefitted our shareholders for more than four decades,” said fellow OMWC board member Don Wattenbarger. “Oildale Mutual Water Company is grateful for the friendship and dedication that Fred showed this Company and his entire community. We are all the better for having known him.”



Oildale  
Mutual  
Water  
Company

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*and pay online!*

*And check out our previous newsletters here as well!*



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