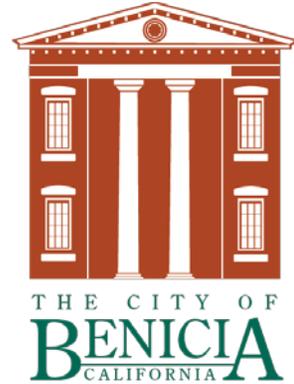


PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF BENICIA
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Winter Watering Restrictions Begin October 16

Benicia, CA (October 11, 2016) —

Automatic sprinklers will be limited to one day per week beginning Sunday, October 16.

Specifically, sprinklers will be limited to use on either Saturdays or Sundays (customer choice as to which day), before 8 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

The restrictions are part of the City's Emergency Outdoor Water Restrictions ordinance, which was adopted by the Benicia City Council in July 2014 and applies to both residential and commercial customers. This emergency ordinance was designed to further encourage water reductions in light of the serious drought plaguing California and its impact on Benicia's water supply.

Additionally, the ordinance has different watering restrictions for summer vs. winter. This is because landscapes typically require less water in fall and winter. "Cooler temperatures, shorter daylight hours and moisture from fog and rain all combine to reduce the water demands of a typical landscape. Often little, if any, irrigation is needed during the cooler months." said David Wenslawski, Water Quality Technician.

Benicia's conservation rates have averaged 38 percent June through August compared to the same timeframe in 2013. Benicia was specifically mentioned in a September 7, 2016 media release issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for maintaining strong water conservation efforts and reduced water use compared to 2013. An important factor in the City's success is the ordinance's landscape water reductions. Most household water use occurs outdoors, and limiting landscape watering can produce significant water savings. Other factors include the turf replacement rebate program, wastewater recycling, and people volunteering to use water conservation best practices.

"We're asking everyone to keep up the great work—to dial back sprinklers even more--as we head into fall and winter and your yard's watering needs are less," said Wenslawski. "And remember to turn off sprinklers when rain is forecast."

More information, plus water wise tips and rebate programs are available at BeniciaSavesWater.org or by contacting the Water Conservation Team at (707) 746-4380 or water@ci.benicia.ca.us

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