



PRESS RELEASE

**CITY OF BENICIA
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Landscape Watering Restrictions Change April 1

BENICIA – March 24, 2016

The City is reminding residents that the City of Benicia’s landscape watering restrictions change on April 1.

From April 1 through October 15, residents are allowed to water up to three days per week as follows:

- Residents with addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9) can water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Residents with addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) can water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Residents are allowed to water on their designated days only, before 8:00 am or after 7:00 pm.

However, before turning on irrigation systems for the season, it’s wise to check to see if the landscaping actually needs water, cautions Benicia Water Quality Technician David Wenslawski. “Especially with the recent rain, please take a moment to check soil moisture—if soil is wet three inches below the surface, your sprinklers can continue their winter break.”

The watering schedule change comes as local and statewide water supply conditions continue to improve compared to the past several years. That said, several of the state’s reservoirs are still below normal, and the State Water Resources Control Board has extended emergency

conservation targets through October of this year. The State Water Board has indicated that they will reevaluate conservation targets in the coming months in light of improved water supply.

“While we’re all hoping that March and April brings continued snow and rainfall, we’re asking residents to keep on conserving water,” said Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, noting that residents reduced water use by 36 percent last year compared to 2013. That’s nearly double the 20 percent target set by the State Water Board’s for Benicia. “Benicians are to be commended and should be proud of their efforts.”

In addition to setting conservation targets, the State Water Board has enacted the following restrictions, which are still in effect:

- Shut-off nozzles required for washing cars
- No watering that creates “visible runoff”
- No watering of hardscapes (sidewalks, etc.)
- No fountains that do not recirculate water
- Water upon request in restaurants
- No lawn watering within 48 hours after rain
- Stepped-up response to customer water leaks
- Cities must have emergency drought plans in place

The Benicia City Council, in 2014, adopted outdoor watering restrictions that limit landscape irrigation by sprinkler systems in an effort to reduce outdoor water use, which is where most household water use occurs. The restrictions apply to both residential and commercial customers and will remain in effect until the City Council declares an end to the water shortage emergency. In response, residents have reduced their water use from 112 gallons per person per day in 2013 to 72 gallons per person per day in 2015, which saved an average of 1.1 million gallons of water every day.

Free services and rebates are available to help residential and business customers use less water. There are rebates for clothes washers (waterenergysavings.com), toilets (saveourwaterrebates.com), and for upgrading to water-smart irrigation controllers (solanosaveswater.org). Free home and business water use surveys are also available to help customers identify potential water saving actions.

More information plus water wise tips 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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