

Anderson Springs Community Service District

Drought Curtailment Usage Fines – Adopted September 10, 2022

Due to the ongoing drought in California, the State Water Resources Control Board has put limits on how much water we can use per month from Putah Creek. These limits were applied at the end of last summer, dropped during the winter, and reinstated this summer. We can assume that once the full winter rains begin that they will be again dropped during the winter. Unless there is sufficient rain this year to take us out of the drought, we should assume they will be in place next spring/summer. We will keep the status updated on our website, ASCSD.Org.

The state allows us 6,000 gallons per household per month. This works out to 660,000 gallons per month for the system. Many of you have been great about conserving water and staying under this, however some customers have not. This has resulted in our using 150% of our allotted water every month this summer, or some 900,000 gallons. Last year the state demanded that we find another water source, however they backed down, which is a relief since drilling a well would be very costly and might not produce water. We are required to submit reports each month detailing our water use and spelling out what steps we have taken to move into compliance. We have asked for voluntary compliance, however it has not been enough. We need to reduce our usage and up our compliance with the state to ensure our continued access to our Spring, which is the headwaters of Putah Creek.

Many of you are unhappy that we are under these restrictions. We are not pleased either. California's water rights laws are complex and difficult. If you would like to see them changed please understand that we are not in a position to do so, however you are welcome to contact your state legislators Mike McGuire and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry to ask them to help. Our rights are subordinate to larger cities downstream. We realize that Middletown, which gets its water from wells is not under the same restrictions. They face their own issues, with a declining water table and water quality issues.

In view of this, the board has adopted the following consequences for excess use:

- Official warning – If your usage during a restricted period exceeds 7,000 gallons per month you will receive an official warning.
- If a subsequent meter reading shows usage exceeding 7,000 gallons per month a fine of \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons used per month over the 6,000 allotment will be imposed.
- If a subsequent reading is over 7,000 gallons the fine will be \$16.00 per 1,000 gallons over 6,000.
- The next reading over 7,000 per month the fine will be \$32.00 per 1,000 gallons over 6,000 and a flow restrictor may be installed limiting water flow to your home. Such a restrictor would limit your taps to a trickle.

This only applies during a period we are under mandatory drought restrictions. If new restrictions are imposed by the state the following year, these restrictions start anew. A warning or a fine given this year counts as a warning for the subsequent dry season.

Normal billing for use exceeding 240,000 gallons per year will still apply. If a fine has been imposed, you may appeal. An appeal form will be available on our website. Grounds for appeal include an error by the district, a health or fire safety crisis, or a leak was discovered that has since been repaired.