

DROUGHT RESPONSE

The City of Natoma addresses its short-term water shortage problems through a series of stages based on conditions of supply and demand with accompanying triggers, goals and actions. Each stage is more stringent in water use than the previous stage since water supply conditions are more deteriorated. The City Council is authorized by ordinance to implement the appropriate conservation measures.

Stage 1: Water Watch

Goals

The goals of this stage are to heighten awareness of the public on water conditions and to maintain the integrity of the water supply system.

Triggers

This stage is triggered by any one of the following conditions:

1. The City's storage has fallen below 85 percent capacity, and will not recover;
2. Groundwater levels have fallen 8 feet below the normal seasonal level;
3. Demand for one day is in excess of 0.195 million gallons per day.

Education Actions

1. The City will make occasional news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the upcoming season.
2. Water-saving tips will be included in billings to water utility customers.

Management Actions

1. The City wells will be cleaned and flushed to maintain them at their most efficient condition.
2. Leaks will be repaired within 48 hours of detection.
3. The City will monitor its use of water and will curtail activities such as hydrant flushing and street cleaning.

Regulation Actions

The public will be asked to curtail some outdoor water use and to make efficient use of indoor water, i.e. wash full loads, take short showers, don't let faucets run, etc.

Stage 2: Water Warning

Goals

The goals of this stage are to reduce peak demands by 20 percent and to reduce overall weekly consumption by 10 percent.

Triggers

This stage is triggered by any one of the following conditions:

1. The City's storage has fallen below 70 percent capacity, and will not recover;
2. Pumping lowers water level to within 10 feet of the top of the well screens;
3. Groundwater levels have fallen 10 feet below the normal seasonal level; or
4. Demand for one day is in excess of 0.200 million gallons per day.

Education Actions

1. The City will make weekly news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the upcoming week.
2. Water conservation articles will be provided to the local newspaper.
3. Water-saving tips will be included in billings to water utility customers.

Management Actions

1. The City water supplies will be monitored daily.
2. Leaks will be repaired within 24 hours of detection.
3. Pumpage at wells will be reduced to decrease drawdown and to maintain water levels over well screens.
4. The City will curtail its water usage, including operation of fountains, watering of City grounds and washing of vehicles.
5. The city will contact DWR for permission to require private well owners to comply with the City's drought response regulations as authorized under K.S.A. 82a-733(i).

Regulation Actions

1. An odd/even lawn watering system will be imposed on City residents (including private domestic well users, if authority is delegated by the Chief Engineer under K.S.A. 82a-733(i)). Residents with odd-numbered addresses will water on odd days; even addresses will water on even days.
2. Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing will be restricted to before 10:00 am and after 9:00 pm.
3. Refilling of swimming pools will be allowed one day a week after sunset.
4. Outdoor watering will be restricted to use of a hand-held hose or bucket only.
5. Excess water use charges for usage of water over the amount used in the winter will be considered.
6. Waste of water will be prohibited.

Stage 3: Water Emergency

Goals

The goals of this stage are to reduce peak demands by 50 percent and to reduce overall weekly consumption by 25 percent.

Triggers:

This stage is triggered by any one of the following conditions:

1. The City's storage has fallen below 50 percent capacity;
2. Pumping lowers water level to within 5 feet of the top of the well screens;
3. Groundwater levels have fallen 15 feet below the normal seasonal level;
4. Demand for one day is in excess of 0.210 million gallons per day; or
5. Emergency conditions related to repairs or water quality.

Education Actions

1. The City will make daily news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the next day.
2. The City will hold public meetings to discuss the emergency, the status of the City water supply and further actions, which need to be taken.

Management Actions

1. The City water supplies will be monitored daily.
2. Leaks will be repaired within 24 hours of detection.
3. Pumpage at wells will be reduced to decrease drawdown and to maintain water levels over well screens.
4. The City will seek additional emergency supplies from other users, the state or the federal government.

Regulation Actions

1. Outdoor water use will be banned.
2. Waste of water will be prohibited.