

# **CITY OF LINDSAY**



## **WATER CONSERVATION PLAN**

**(WATER SHORTAGE CONTIGENCY PLAN)**

**PER MUNICIPAL CODE 13.04.345**

**Adopted: 05/23/23**

## **SECTION I INTRODUCTION**

The City of Lindsay is located on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley in Tulare County near the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The City is traversed by State Highway 65 running north and south along the west side of the City. Lindsay is located approximately 12 miles east of Tulare and State Highway 99, approximately 11 miles north of Porterville and 18 miles southeast of Visalia, the County seat of Tulare County.

The City of Lindsay was incorporated on February 29, 1910 as "Class Six" city under the laws of the State of California. The area within the existing City limits contains approximately 2.72 square miles or 1,743 acres of which approximately 82.1 percent is presently developed for commercial, industrial and residential use.

As a Charter City of the State of California, Lindsay is governed by an elected five-member City Council, one of whom serves as Mayor. Administrative officials include a City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, Finance Director, City Engineer, City Services & Planning Director, Recreation Services Director and Director of Public Safety. The major city departments consist of Public Safety (police and fire) and City Services & Planning.

## SECTION 2 WATER SUPPLY AND WATER SYSTEM

The City of Lindsay's water system consists of approximately 3,100 service connections in the current service area. Greater than 95% of the connections are metered. All new water connections are required to be metered.

The City of Lindsay's water system supply consists of three deep wells supplied by groundwater aquifers both inside the City's service area as well as outside the city limits, 2,500-acre feet of surface water purchased annually from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamations, Central Valley Project, at Millerton Reservoir and delivered to the City's point of delivery by way of the Friant Kern Canal and a 4.0 million gallon steel storage tank located on Todd's Hill.

Monitoring and partial control is provided by wireless digital data signals telemetry to the well sites and the water storage tank.

Historically, the surface water supply is the City of Lindsay's primary source of water. The groundwater supply is considered as the City's secondary source and is utilized to satisfy peak demands on the system.

The fluctuation and deterioration of groundwater quality, with particular respect to nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub>), Perchlorate (ClO<sub>4</sub>) and Dibromochloropropane (DBCP, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>Cl) with the City's deep wells has put additional pressure and importance on the surface water supply.

In 2013 and 2014 drought conditions have risen to levels never experienced in California. These conditions along with a requirement to supply water to the San Joaquin River and other longstanding water rights commitments have substantially reduced the surface water supply to a below normal amount available to the City through its annual contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamations. The amount declared in the 2014 water year was 0% of the normal 2,500-acre feet of surface water available to the City.

In year 2023 the entire state received historical amounts of rain, but this unprecedented event does not warranty what the 2024 water allocation would be. In 2022 the City received a 0% allocation in February 2022, and it was not until the end of June 2023, when the Bureau of Reclamation granted a "Health & Safety Allocation" of 40% of the contract amount. 2023 Water Year declaration is 100% of the contract amount.

With the very limited surface water and groundwater supplies, it will be necessary for the City of Lindsay to promote and enforce this water conservation plan in order to provide sufficient water to meet community demands.

### SECTION 3 CONSERVATION MEASURES

The City of Lindsay is aware of the need for continual water conservation and through direction by the City Council has adopted resolutions and ordinances to provide staff with the means of implementing and enforcing necessary water conservation measures.

Through this updated Water Conservation Plan, the City will continue their efforts in water conservation and adopt new policies and guidelines as the need becomes apparent. This revised plan has been developed around a 5 Phase approach with the following structure:

- Phase I - Water Conservation
- Phase II - Water Monitoring
- Phase III - Strict Enforcement
- Phase VI – Emergency Water Conservation
- Phase V – Extreme Water Crisis

The benefits of conserving water as a limited natural resource, through this format will be realized by the community in the form of reduced energy costs, reduced impact on the Wastewater Treatment Plant and sufficient water supply during peak demands. It is the intent of the water conservation plan to be a joint effort of all residents and water users and the City and through community efforts, optimal results will be achieved.

Actions within each phase have been defined as either actions to be undertaken by the City or by the General Public. Due to the number of variables which affect the water conditions in existence at any one point in time, a report by City Staff, will describe the necessary action for transition from one phase to another (more or less stringent). At such time as staff has determined that the water condition warrants advancement to a more stringent phase, a report and request will be forwarded to the City Council for their review and approval.

**Enforcement, Violation, & Penalties for Phase II through V.** The City will strictly enforce the water conservation program by issuing written fines for misusing water. It is the objective of the City Council of the City that citizens of Lindsay voluntarily comply with the provisions of this Section. Enforcement of this Section will authorize one informal written notice and one formal written notice. Per Title 1, General Provisions of the Municipal Code of the City of Lindsay, Chapter 1.16, General Penalty, Section 1.16.010, Penalty for Code Violations, the following amounts, and provisions will be enforced. Except where specifically provided otherwise in the Lindsay Municipal Code, violation of any of the provisions of this code shall be unlawful and constitute an infraction.

Any **residential person** convicted of violating any provision of the Lindsay Municipal Code shall be punished by:

1. A fine not exceeding **one hundred dollars** for a first violation;
2. A fine not exceeding **five hundred dollars** for a second violation of the same section within one year;
3. A fine not exceeding **one thousand dollars** for each additional violation of the same

section within one year.

Any **non-residential person or group** convicted of violating any provision of the Lindsay Municipal Code shall be punished by:

1. A fine not exceeding one thousand dollars for a first violation;
2. A fine not exceeding five thousand dollars for a second violation of the same section within one year;
3. A fine not exceeding **ten thousand dollars** for each additional violation of the same section within one year.

Any monetary fine issued will be collected according to the provisions set forth within chapter 1.18 of the Lindsay Municipal Code.

**The definitions of water misuse shall be;**

- Washing down driveways and sidewalks;
- Watering of outdoor landscapes that cause excess runoff;
- Using a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle;
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.
- Watering outside of the designated day and time for the specific property (address).

## SECTION 4 PHASE I - WATER CONSERVATION

Through a joint effort of the City and General Public, this phase is established to conserve water, a limited natural resource, through reductions of water waste and implementation of guidelines for more efficient use of the available limited supply of water. Phase I typically applies during periods when an average water supply is forecast.

The following outline describes steps to be taken by the City as well as Residents that makes it possible to achieve the above goals:

- The City shall implement a "Public Awareness Program" designed to make the community aware of the water conditions.
- The City shall develop a set of "Water Conservation Guidelines" that would be made available to residents for use in conserving water.
- The City shall keep the community aware of changing conditions through news media. This is necessary in the event that stricter conditions may be coming in the future.
- Enforce most current and adopted building codes and regulations that deal with building construction with regard to water and energy conservation.
- Request that residents reduce landscape irrigation practices to a minimum. Request that landscape irrigation be performed during late evenings or early mornings to reduce the amount of water lost due to evaporation.
- Require that all new developments follow model water efficient landscape designs, including automatic irrigation systems with rain control gauges.
- Require that all new developments follow model water efficient landscape designs with regard to plantings and planting designs and layout.
- Discourage users from washing down sidewalks and driveways. Request that this item be accomplished by other means such as sweeping, etc.
- Request that restaurants support the water conservation effort by serving water upon request only.
- The City shall reduce all landscape irrigation practices to a minimum.
- The City shall intensify its leak detection program by repairing or replacing leaking valves, water meters and fire hydrants as necessary.
- Coordinate with local schools to implement a Water Education Program that would instill a water conservation ethic in the minds of today's youth. This alone can permanently affect the water using habits of tomorrow's adults.
- The City's fire hydrant testing schedule shall be arranged so that fire hydrant testing occurs

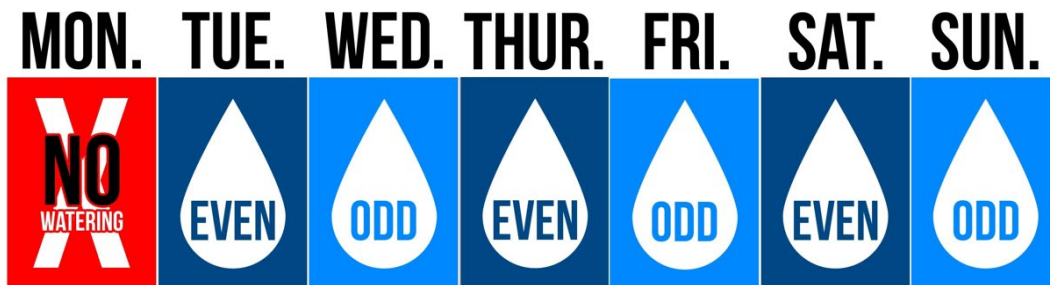
during off peak periods. Fire Hydrant testing and flushing is a necessary item to provide the public with safe, clean water for fire protection and domestic use.

**SECTION 5  
PHASE II - WATER MONITORING**

Phase II typically applies during periods when below average water supply is forecast.

When it is found that it is necessary to implement Phase II of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall advise the City Council of the need for a more aggressive water conservation program due to forth coming shortfalls in supply and/or increased demands on the system. With the adoption of Phase II of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall intensify its water conservation efforts by the following practices:

- The City shall take a more aggressive approach with the "Public Awareness Program" designed to make the community aware of the water conditions and possibility of a water shortage.
- The City shall reduce landscape watering of City facilities, additionally as deemed necessary to provide only enough water required to maintain survival of permanent plants such as trees and shrubs.
- The City shall begin monitoring water use by residents or large commercial, institutional or industrial water users and alerting them to the potential impact of waste or over use. In this Phase a verbal warning would be issued and a citation issued if the condition were to continue.
- All items of Phase I Water Conservation would be intensified. All residents would be asked to increase their water conservation efforts.
- The City would implement a mandatory water use schedule that would define days available to irrigate (odd and even address system) landscaping as follows;
  1. Odd numbered street addresses water only on Wednesdays, Fridays and/or Sundays.
  2. Even numbered street addresses water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Saturdays.
  3. No outdoor watering on **Mondays**.
  4. This program also encourages customers to turn off their sprinklers on rainy days.
  5. **No watering between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.**



6. Watering on designated days shall only be allowed between 9:00 pm –9:00 am
7. All new permits shall satisfy the latest requirements of the California Model Landscape



Ordinance, including already approved, but not yet completed permit.

8. Washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other mobile equipment is permitted with handheld watering devices with automatic shut off nozzles and only during designated days and times.
9. Any outdoor use of handheld watering devices with automatic shut off nozzles (including vehicle washing use of pressure washing equipment) used during designated days and times are limited to 30 minutes of use for each watering day.
10. **No outdoor watering during, or within 48 hours of, measurable rain.**
11. **Enforcement of the water use schedule shall be implemented and shall follow SECTION 3 CONSERVATION MEASURES-Enforcement, Violations, & Penalty for Phase II through V.**

The watering schedule does not apply to:

- Drip irrigation systems;
- Handheld watering methods with automatic shutoff mechanism;
- Flower and vegetable gardens;
- Outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets;
- Newly planted lawns.

**SECTION 6  
PHASE III - STRICT ENFORCEMENT**

Phase III typically applies during periods when water supply shortages are probable or in extreme conditions such as continued and/or widespread drought.

In the event it is found necessary to implement Phase III of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall advise the City Council of the need for a more aggressive and stringent water conservation program due to probable shortfalls in supply and/or increased demands on the system. With the adoption of Phase III of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall implement the following mandatory water conservation provisions:

- The City will intensify its efforts to inform the public of the need for Water Conservation with special emphasis given to inform the Public of water shortage conditions.
- The City shall intensify efforts of community awareness by stepping up information of changing conditions through news media.
- All items of Phase I and Phase II Water Conservation would be intensified. All residents would be asked to increase their water conservation efforts.
- The City shall reduce landscape watering, of City facilities, additionally as deemed necessary to confine impact on the water system. If it becomes necessary, watering of City facilities, parks and median islands will be suspended and evaluated each day.
- The City would implement a mandatory water use schedule that would define days available to irrigate (odd and even address system). The schedule is identified below.



- Watering on designated days shall only be allowed between 9:00 pm –9:00 am. No watering will be allowed between 9:00 am – 9:00 pm
- All new permits shall satisfy the latest requirements of the California Model Landscape Ordinance, including already approved, but not yet completed permits.
- Washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other mobile equipment is permitted with handheld watering devices with automatic shut off nozzles and only during designated days and times.
- Any outdoor use of handheld watering devices with automatic shut off nozzles (including vehicle washing use of pressure washing equipment) used during designated

days and times are limited to 30 minutes of use for each watering day.

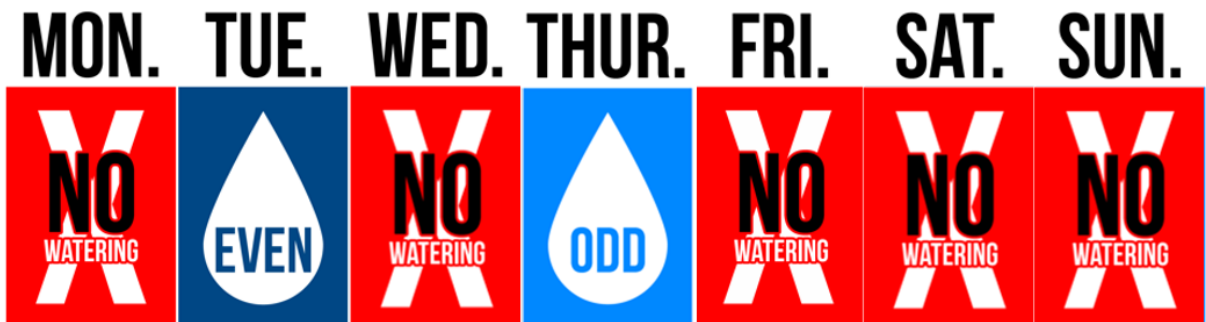
- No outdoor watering during, or within 48 hours of, measurable rain.
- **Enforcement of the water use schedule shall be implemented and shall follow SECTION 3 CONSERVATION MEASURES-Enforcement, Violations, & Penalty for Phase II through V.**

**SECTION 7**  
**PHASE IV – EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION**

Phase IV typically applies during periods when water supply shortages exist or in extreme conditions such as continued and/or widespread drought.

In the event it is found necessary to implement Phase IV of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall advise the City Council of the need for a more aggressive and stringent water conservation program due to imminent shortfalls in supply and/or increased demands on the system or continued mandates from the State of California. With the adoption of Phase IV of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall implement the following mandatory water conservation provisions:

- The City will intensify its efforts to inform the public of the requirement for Water Conservation with special emphasis given to inform the Public of water supply conditions.
- The City shall intensify efforts of community awareness by stepping up information of changing conditions through news or social media.
- All items of Phase I, Phase II and Phase III Water Conservation would be intensified. All residents would be required to increase their water conservation efforts.
- The City shall implement a mandatory outdoor water use schedule that would define one day available to irrigate (odd and even address system). The schedule is identified below.



- Watering of turf on median islands in public right of way shall be suspended.
- Watering on designated days shall only be allowed between 9:00 pm –9:00 am.
- No watering will be allowed between 9:00 am – 9:00 pm.
- All new permits shall satisfy the latest requirements of the California Model Landscape Ordinance, including already approved, but not yet completed permits.
- Washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other mobile equipment is permitted with handheld watering devices with automatic shut off nozzles and only during designated days and times.
- Any outdoor use of handheld watering devices with automatic shut off nozzles (including vehicle washing use of pressure washing equipment) used during designated days and times

are limited to 30 minutes of use for each watering day.

- No outdoor watering during, or within 48 hours of, measurable rain.
- Spas, wading, and swimming pools are only allowed to be refilled or added to during designated days and times. Water slides or water bounce houses or other private water attractions shall only be allowed during designated days and times and with a hose controlled with shut off nozzle.
- Collection of grey water from indoor uses is highly recommended. Distribution of grey water on outdoor landscaping is highly recommended to be done on respective water days.
- **Enforcement of the water use schedule shall be implemented and shall follow SECTION 3 CONSERVATION MEASURES-Enforcement, Violations, & Penalty for Phase II through V.**

**SECTION 8  
PHASE V – EXTREME WATER CRISIS**

Phase V typically applies during periods when water supply shortages exist and in extreme conditions such as continued and/or widespread drought or unreliable water supply.

In the event it is found necessary to implement Phase V of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall advise the City Council of the need for a more aggressive and stringent water conservation program due to existing shortfalls in supply and increased demands on the system. With the adoption of Phase V of the Water Conservation Plan, the City shall implement the following mandatory water conservation provisions:

- The City will intensify its efforts to inform the public of the requirement for Water Conservation with special emphasis given to inform the Public of water supply conditions.
- The City shall intensify efforts of community awareness by stepping up information of changing conditions through news or social media.
- **No outdoor irrigation of landscaping or vegetation. There shall be no watering outdoors until Phase 5 restrictions are rescinded.**



- No washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats or other types of mobile equipment except at commercial, fleet wash stations or fixed vehicle wash facilities (with approved run-off protection and collection) until Phase 5 emergency restrictions are rescinded. Mobile vehicle wash services shall not be allowed.
- Collection of grey water from indoor uses is highly recommended. Distribution of grey water on outdoor landscaping is highly recommended to be done on respective water days.
- Outdoor water use for emergency purposes shall be by permit only, after review and approval by the City Services Director.
- City parks, schools, and similar establishments may water once per week by permit only, after review and approval by the City Services Director.
- No new water connections shall be permitted until Phase 5 restrictions are rescinded (at the direction of the Director of City Services & Planning).
- **Enforcement of the water use schedule shall be implemented and shall follow SECTION 3 CONSERVATION MEASURES-Enforcement, Violations, &**

**Penalty for Phase II through V.**