



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Oakland Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2015

Oakland Public Works Responds to Drought Impacts

Oakland, CA – In April of 2015, Governor Brown declared severe drought conditions and imposed water restrictions to achieve a 25% reduction in water use. East Bay Municipal District (EBMUD) – Oakland’s water supplier – declared a Stage 4 Drought requiring certain measures to comply with the water restrictions. The City of Oakland is taking immediate actions to reduce water consumption to comply with the mandatory 25% water use reduction on City maintained landscaped areas.

Public Works Park & Tree Services Division is responsible for all landscape maintenance in City parks and open spaces. Beginning in May of 2014, the Division implemented a number of water reduction measures to address drought conditions and include the following:

- Reduce water usage in parks and medians by “dialing back” the irrigation controller by 25%. Watering is done at night and watering cycles are set to allow proper ground soaking to prevent runoff.
- Analysis of EBMUD monthly reports to identify abnormal water usage and prioritize issues caused by irrigation breaks or other problems.
- Check irrigation systems bi-weekly at all major parks and athletic fields. Repair immediately any identified broken sprinkler heads or irrigation lines.
- Replace aging irrigation systems with newer technology, as resources allow, such as programmable battery-operated valves and low-flow sprinkler heads for even water distribution and lower water usage.

Additional Measures to Address Severe Drought Conditions

- Limit landscape watering to no more than two non-consecutive days per week. Water in evenings after 9 p.m. and end before 6 a.m. No watering within 48 hours of measurable rainfall.
- Stop watering medians with lawn or established plant materials.
- Use a broom or air blower to clean hard surfaces such as sidewalks instead of water, except as needed for health and safety purposes.
- Turn off fountains and decorative water features unless the water is recirculated.
- New projects will utilize drip irrigation or micro sprays to conserve water.

Brown Is the New Green

Due to the expanded statewide mandatory limits on outdoor water use which are in effect until further notice, **Oakland residents can expect to see brown lawns in City parks and medians.**

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Water conservation is a priority in all water management decisions. The City will continue to explore and implement additional measures. The City is also testing new technology products that allow lawns to stay greener longer with less water. The City is participating in the Lawn Replacement program, converting existing lawns to low water landscape through EBMUD. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/watersmart-center>
<https://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/water-conservation/irrigation-programs>
<https://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/water-conservation/lawn-conversion-irrigation-upgrade-rebates>

All City residents are encouraged to **report** broken sprinklers or other water leaks in parks and medians to the Oakland Public Works Call Center at (510) 615-5566 or opwcallcenter@oaklandnet.com, online at www.oaklandpw.com or SeeClickFix mobile app for immediate attention.

For information on water saving tips and updates, please visit:
www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/latest-water-supply-update

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