

Summary of Water Shortage Action Plan Updates

UPDATE		REASON
1.	Created guiding principles within the Plan that consider water restrictions beyond demand reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed water use priorities, based on hundreds of customer responses and included other best practices to create a framework to review and evaluate water response strategies - primarily restrictions
2.	Created voluntary level (reflects Level I or best practice for water efficiency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May provide mitigation and avoid a potential water shortage Allows for non-regulatory action first Opportunity for public communication prior to mandatory restrictions
3.	Created alternative level – Level IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses need for customized response to unanticipated, off-season, extreme, and/or infrastructure-based shortages, such as Horsetooth Outlet Project Gap in previous action plan doesn't address extreme shortage greater than 35% (annual outdoor water use) or non-irrigation months, when the plan's outdoor water use restrictions won't be an effective response to a water shortage
4.	Created voluntary indoor reductions across all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes comprehensive conservation and efficiency without enacting indoor restrictions for most levels
5.	Consolidated what was previously 4 action levels into 3, by eliminating what was previously Level II and renumbering the action levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimizes the number of levels, which minimizes confusion and communication challenges when moving in between action levels From a water consumption standpoint, previous Level II was very similar to Level III (one day of watering a week) and unlikely to result in significantly different water savings from Level III
6.	Remove 2-hour watering window restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not adequate to reach roots in clay soils on most properties, unless only watering 2-3 zones at a time If water isn't reaching roots, then the applied water is wasted Currently difficult to enforce
7.	Added outdoor lawn watering target for each level and cycle soak method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided as guidance to minimize all night watering 1-2 days per week. Not intended to be regulated or enforced Sets the stage for future approaches to restrictions
8.	Changed "other landscape" and "tree" watering restrictions to reflect "lawn" restrictions associated with spray irrigation –daily watering with sprays are no longer allowed on any landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns watering restrictions for "tree" and "other landscape" with "lawns," which sprays typically are also watering on the same zone (i.e. trees and lawn) "Trees" and "other landscaping" (shrubs, bushes, etc.) need less water than "lawns" anyway, so allowing daily "tree" and "other landscape" watering is excessive "Other landscape" includes annuals, which typically need daily watering, but annuals are temporary plantings anyway and can always be hand watered or watered through a drip system
9.	Added shutoff nozzle and spigot timer requirements to landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code and best practices that reduce water waste on hand watering and drip methods

	watering that utilize alternative methods to sprays	
10.	Aligned dust suppression with City's Dust Control and Prevention Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes input from Environmental Services, Streets and Utilities Environmental Regulatory Affairs Requires dry cleanup methods first, when feasible Addresses dust suppression beyond construction sites and ball fields Balances air quality and public health concerns with water conservation Allows for dust suppression to continue, but requires alternative, non-water, methods where feasible
11.	Added street sweeping to restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed with Streets staff – Senior Supervisor and Transportation Operations Manager Sweeping doesn't use much water, but cleaning equipment after each sweep does Prioritization of street sweeping at various action levels ensures essential needs are met, without excessive sweeping and associated water use
12.	Changed splash park water use to unrestricted until greatest action level – Level III, which is similar to previous action level IV (previously restricted at levels III and IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects desire to prioritize community water uses, such as public splash parks Splash parks do not use much water as they are recirculating systems with some additional water use to compensate for evaporation and splash loss On hot, dry days this community asset is a beneficial use and is preferred to private recreation uses, because it's less wasteful and benefits a greater number of people
13.	Added recreational water toys and individual pools and misting device restrictions – restricted at Level II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects community water use priority – personal/private uses are a lesser priority Generally, a small amount of water, but public perception issues at Level II and III Restricting these non-essential uses helps with the overall conservation message
14.	Changed new sod and seed permits to address regionally adaptive grasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionally adaptive grasses have a longer establishment period and will receive watering exception timeframes specific to the species – no longer blanket 2-3 week permits for all lawn installations
15.	Added gallons per sq. ft. equivalent for active and inactive parks and lawns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows compliance information to be provided in multiple formats Some water managers prefer to use inches per week, but others would prefer gallons per sq. ft. per week
16.	Specified difference in permit exceptions for inactive vs. active areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active playing field areas should be allowed to water more than inactive areas for safety purposes Recognize some properties have both active and inactive areas and each of these areas can be watered differently, based on the safety need Treats public and private playing field areas equally

17.	Require raw water to register – previously just recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimizes staff time spent contacting raw water users that are flagged as violating restrictions Creates helpful database for Utilities for future water shortages too
18.	Changed water shortage rates to only affect volumetric charges and not impact IQAP-specific rates (base and Tier 1) - Level II – 20% and Level III – 30%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Utilities Finance Staff to analyze and develop new rates Address new Income Qualified Assistance Program (IQAP) rate, which didn't exist when initial water shortage rate approach was developed in 2013 Reduces financial impacts associated with indoor use and those who already conserve and use water efficiently Rate increase changes will continue to collect lost revenue associated with reduced water consumption Modeling proposed water rate increase shows no cost increase estimated for customers who reduced their use by 20% during Level II.
19.	Removed excess water use (EWU) surcharge increases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intent of the short-term water shortage rate increases (#18, above) is to recover lost revenue due to a decrease in consumption and is not related to the EWU surcharge, which is intended to secure additional long-term supplies The intent of EWU surcharge is to help cover costs to acquire more water supply. Utilities doesn't currently have short-term supply agreements in place that we can estimate costs for and tie to EWU surcharge increases during a water shortage. This may be developed in the future and necessitate adding back the increase to EWU surcharges during a water shortage
20.	Added volumetric water rate increase to hydrant and water fill stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water can be purchased for construction or otherwise and filled from a fire hydrant or fill station. There is a cost per 1,000 gallons used More comprehensive application of volumetric rate increases, when added to these additional uses