

# WOODLANDS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

## DROUGHT RESPONSE

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### **Background**

As California endures a period of historic drought, water conservation mandates have become commonplace. In Nipomo, conservation requirements have been issued both by the Governor in Executive Order B-29-15 (April, 2015) and through the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA) Technical Group (May, 2015). The Woodlands Mutual Water Company (WMWCo) must comply with both mandates. The summary table below has been prepared for our customers to minimize confusion, since the required use reductions are similar:

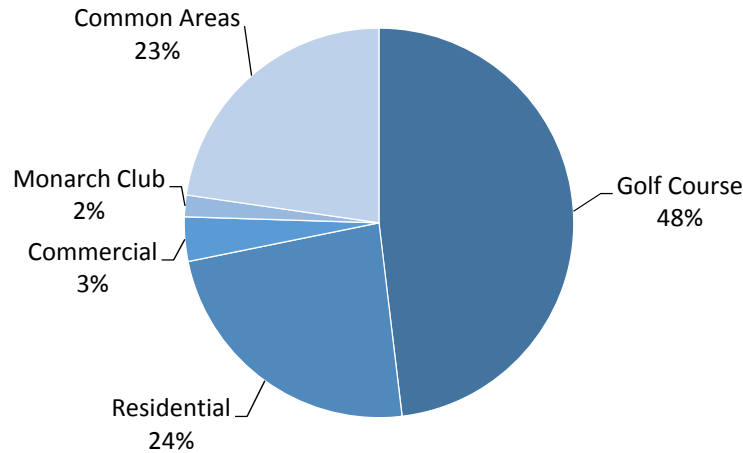
<b>Source of Requirement</b>	<b>Requirement Summary</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Governor's Executive Order	Target statewide reduction of potable water by 25% compared to 2013	Systems with less than 3,000 connections like WMWCo must either limit outdoor irrigation to two days per week, or implement an equivalent program to achieve a 25% reduction per household.
NMMA Technical Group	Reduce total groundwater pumping by 30% compared to 2013	WMWCo must pump 30% less from the groundwater basin compared to 2013. This requirement can be met by a combination of water conservation and importation of new water.

If you would like to read the actual language of the above mandates, you can do so via our website at [www.woodlandsmwc.com](http://www.woodlandsmwc.com).

### **WMWCo's Action Plan**

WMWCo's proposed action plan will include water conservation goals for our five customer types, including residential, golf, commercial, common area landscaping, and the Monarch Club. The chart on the following page summarizes water consumption in 2013 by customer type.

## Groundwater Use by Customer Type (2013 baseline - 1,004 acre feet used)



The focus of this letter is on our residential customer type. While indoor conservation is always encouraged, water that flows down the drain is always treated and recycled for use on the golf course. For this reason, WMWCo is seeking to reduce residential outdoor irrigation by 30%. We believe this can be achieved without compromising the aesthetic of our community through the following tools:

1. Better information on water bills – we will be adding new information to our water bills that makes it clear how many gallons per day you are using, and how this compares to your use last year.
2. Landscape audit program – WMWCo is offering the services of a professional landscape auditor to a minimum of 100 customers at no charge. To volunteer, please call us at (805) 540-5208.
3. Adjust your irrigation timer settings to our “recommended drought settings” summarized below. Additional outdoor water savings tips can also be found on our website at: [http://woodlandsmwc.com/cm/Water\\_Conservation/Conservation\\_Tips.html](http://woodlandsmwc.com/cm/Water_Conservation/Conservation_Tips.html)

### **Recommended Drought Settings for Irrigation Controllers**

The Governor’s global approach to reducing outdoor use has been to limit irrigation to two days per week. In the sandy soil condition of Nipomo, we believe this will not be the most efficient approach, and could lead to water waste and poor landscape performance. While many different residential irrigation designs have been implemented at Monarch Dunes, we have assembled the following recommendations based on average conditions and a targeted reduction of 30%.

Landscape type	Recommended settings for each control valve	How does this setting achieve the 30% reduction goal?
Turf with spray irrigation	10 minutes of irrigation 3 times per week Avoid irrigation during daylight hours	For most spray irrigation systems, this setting will apply approximately 0.5 inch of water per week (for the 42 irrigating weeks per year, March - December), resulting in 30% less water use over the entire irrigation year compared with the pre-drought annual turf use of 30 inches per year
Ornamental plants with drip	20 minutes of irrigation 3 times per week* Avoid irrigation during daylight hours	For the average drip system, this setting will apply 0.2 inch of water per week (for the 42 irrigating weeks per year, March – December), resulting in 30% less water use over the entire irrigation year compared with the pre-drought annual ornamental drip use of 12" per year

\* Depending on your specific drip system, some residents may need to increase the time settings in 10 to 20% increments if plant stress is observed.

Please understand that the above recommendations are initial measures, and that some adjustments may be necessary to achieve targeted results. Our other customer categories such as commercial, common area landscape, golf, and the Monarch Club will receive a detailed analysis of irrigation requirements for each category.

We welcome your input as we seek to comply with both State and local requirements. In addition to the above recommendations, please be sure to observe the following prohibitions relating to the waste of water:

- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water
- Using hoses with no automatic shutoff nozzles to wash cars
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water
- Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall