



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
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May 31, 2015

Dear Campus Water Customers,

California is in the fourth year of a severe drought, and UC Davis must continue our efforts to reduce campus water use. In April, the Governor issued [Executive Order B-29-15](#)¹ with the intent to reduce statewide urban potable water demand by 25 percent. On May 18, 2015, the Office of Administrative Law approved [Emergency Regulation](#)² to implement the Governor's Executive Order. UC Davis must comply with this regulation and provide documentation to the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Emergency Regulation only addresses potable water use. UC Davis has a complex water supply network with several independent water systems serving different campus needs. Most campus landscapes are irrigated using non-potable "utility" water. As such, this system is not specifically covered by the new regulations. However, to demonstrate leadership in water management, the campus has implemented aggressive actions to reduce this non-potable water use. We achieved a 30 percent reduction in 2014, and we anticipate similar reductions for 2015.

Our "domestic" water system, which primarily serves campus buildings and fire hydrants, must comply with the Emergency Regulation's requirements for small water suppliers. Specifically, we must reduce our domestic water use by 25 percent or limit outdoor irrigation to two days per week. All campus water customers are prompted to take action to minimize water waste and reduce potable water use. As one specific element of the new regulations, no one can use domestic water to wash sidewalks and driveways. A campus-wide Water Action Committee has been meeting regularly to plan, coordinate and implement water conservation measures. We anticipate significant reductions in potable water use.

To ensure strict compliance with the regulations, effective immediately, the outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water from the campus domestic water system is limited to two days per week. Additionally, these systems must be operated to prevent runoff and halt irrigating for 48 hours following measureable rainfall. These new restrictions apply to the relatively small fraction of the campus landscape that is irrigated with potable water, primarily areas outside of the central campus. As examples, these limitations include

¹ http://gov.ca.gov/docs/4.1.15_Executive_Order.pdf

²

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/emergency_regulations/oal_approved_regs2015.pdf

all of the West Village development, turf areas at the California National Primate Research Center, and landscaping for the Hopkins Road Parking Lot. We will work with those affected by these requirements to provide technical implementation support and establish procedures to document compliance.

These scheduling restrictions do not apply to field teaching or research plots, landscapes irrigated using non-potable utility water, recycled water from the campus wastewater treatment plant, or untreated “ag water.” Separate efforts have been initiated to address these water uses.

This has been a fast-moving initiative, and many of you will undoubtedly have questions. Please feel free to contact me directly at (530) 754-8214 or dxphillips@ucdavis.edu. We’ll do our best to make sure campus operations are not negatively impacted by these new measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Phillips
Director, Utilities
Office of the Vice Chancellor-Chief Financial Officer