



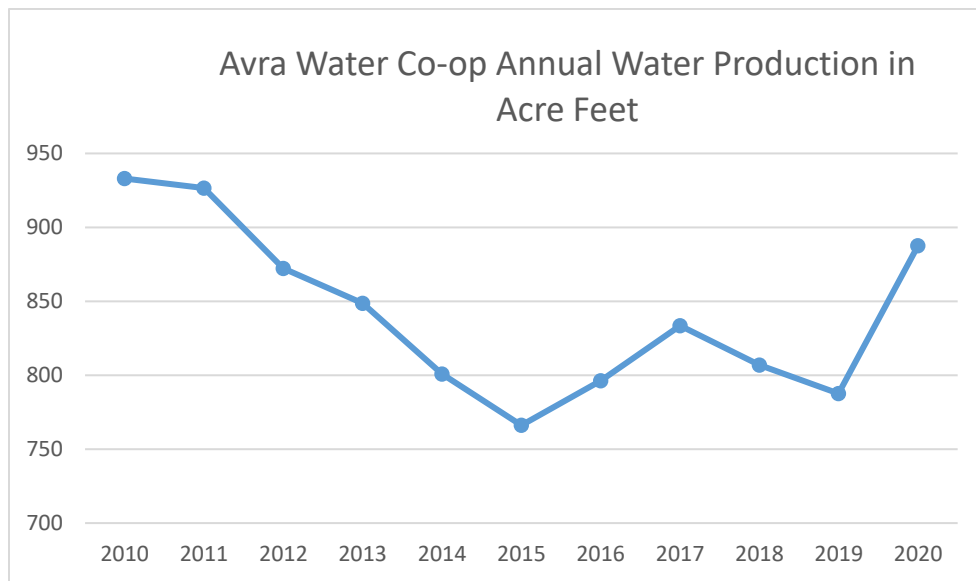
Drought Preparedness And Response Plan

Prepared: September 15, 2021

Arizona is experiencing a drought which has multiple impacts on our water supply in Southern Arizona. A Tier 1 Colorado River Shortage was just declared by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in August. This Tier 1 shortage will result in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of Colorado River Water and given the recent intensification of the drought, deeper levels of shortage are likely in the next few years. This is not new news. We have been planning and prepared for this for many years. Arizona is not going to run out of water. In fact, everyone is working harder to ensure that water has a sustainable future in our state.

It is our responsibility as your water provider to work with local, county, and state agencies to prepare for drought and prepare plans to minimize the impacts. We are a small utility system using a small amount of groundwater in the big picture, but every drop counts!

Production has remained relatively consistent over the past ten years considering the small amount of growth we have had. The graph below reflects our annual production in acre feet.



Avra Water will follow the Drought Response Plan and Water Wasting Ordinance that Pima County has established for unincorporated areas of Pima County, as well as continue our Best Management Practices required by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

What are we doing to promote conservation awareness??

We have taken measures to increase customer awareness on conservation and are working on ways to continue those efforts which include:

- ✓ We have conservation pamphlets and information available to all of our customers in the lobby. They range from information on How to Find Leaks, How to Read Your Water Meter, Xeriscape Landscape Information, New Homeowner Information, and more. You may stop by to pick them up or call or send us a request and we will mail them to you.
- ✓ We publish a quarterly newsletter with conservation tips and information.
- ✓ We have updated our website to include conservation information and websites where you can find and learn about anything having to do with water conservation.
- ✓ We have toilet flappers, dye tablets, low flow shower heads, and faucet aerators available to our customers at no cost.
- ✓ This year we have implemented a Bi-monthly Meter Reading Program. We have been receiving funds from Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant since 2009. These funds go toward replacing old meters with new, highly efficient meters that have the ability to read usage data. All of our meters are now radio read meters which means, paired with a MXU, we can pick up customer meter reads as a tech drives around our service area and collects them. This has cut our reading time over the last 10 years from 3 days, to 2 days, and now most recently one day to read all of our customer's meters. This also saves on vehicle emissions, dust pollution, and valuable time.
- ✓ Our Conservation Specialist is always researching new information to share with our members and presents at the Annual Meeting each year.
- ✓ Staff attends webinars and seminars on drought impacts and conservation to share with our members throughout the year.
- ✓ We report annually to our governing entities (Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Corporation Commission, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality). This information is used to monitor and address conditions throughout the state.

Best Management Practices:

Local and/or Regional Messaging Program

A program for the Company to actively participate in a water conservation campaign with local or regional advertising (Modified Non-Per Capita Conservation Program BMP Category 1: Public Awareness/Public Relations 1.1: Local and/or Regional Messaging Program).

New Homeowner Landscape Information

A program for the Company to promote the conservation of water by providing a landscape information package for the purpose of educating its new customers about low water use landscaping.

Residential Interior Retrofit Program

A program for the Company to promote water conservation by providing residential customers free or low cost plumbing fixtures for their residence.

Customer High Water Use Inquiry Resolution

A program for the Company to assist its customers with their high water-use inquiries and complaints.

Customer High Water Use Notification

A program for the Company to monitor and notify customers when water use seems to be abnormally high and provide information that could benefit those customers and promote water conservation.

Water System Tampering

The purpose of this tariff is to promote the conservation of groundwater by enabling the Company to bring an action for damages or to enjoin any activity against a person who tampers with the water system.

Public Education Program

A program for the Company to provide free written information on water conservation measures to its customers and to remind them of the importance of conserving water.

Chapter 8.70

DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN AND WATER WASTING

Sections:

[8.70.010](#) Purpose and applicability.

[8.70.020](#) Definitions.

[8.70.030](#) Water wasting prohibited.

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[8.70.050](#) Declaration of drought stage.

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8.70.010 Purpose and applicability.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a drought response plan for the unincorporated areas of Pima County.

B. Because of varying conditions related to water resource supply and distribution system capabilities, it is necessary to establish and to enforce methods and procedures to ensure that, in time of emergency shortage of the local water supply, the water resources available to the residents of unincorporated Pima County are put to the maximum beneficial use, that the unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use is prevented, and that conservation of water is accomplished in the interests of the public health, safety, and welfare.

C. This chapter applies to the unincorporated areas of Pima County.

(Ord. 2007-47 § 1 (part), 2007; Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.020 Definitions.

A. "Arizona Drought Monitoring Report" means the long-term drought status report issued by the Arizona Department of Water Resources' Monitoring Technical Committee (MTC), created by the Governor's Drought Task Force, which is responsible for gathering drought, climate, and weather data and disseminating that information to land managers, policy-makers, and the public. The MTC determines drought conditions based on monitoring data, tracks changes in weather and physical conditions, forecasts likely future conditions, and provides early detection of changes in drought severity. The MTC will also assess local area impact assessment information provided by the Pima County Local Drought Impact Group.

B. "Department" means the Pima County Health Department.

C. "Director" means director of the health department.

D. "Pima County Local Drought Impact Group" means a drought monitoring and assessment group comprised of individuals skilled in monitoring climate, area water supplies, ecosystems, and economic and social impacts as a result of drought and facilitates the role of a Local Area Impact Assessment Group prescribed in the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan.

E. "Economic hardship" means a threat to an individual's or business' primary source of income.

F. "Notification to the public" means notification through local media, including interviews and issuance of news releases.

G. "Person" means a government or government subdivision or agency, the county, a municipality, district or other political subdivision, a cooperative, association, corporation, company, firm, partnership, individual, or other legal entity.

H. The term "pool" applies to all pools regulated by Pima County's adopted building or technical codes, regardless of whether the pool is installed above- or below-ground or whether it is a temporary or permanent structure.

I. "Water" means potable or reclaimed water from all sources.

J. "Rainwater harvesting system" means a system or series of components or mechanisms that are designed to provide for the collection and storage of rainwater for use of the collected water on the same property.

(Ord. 2014-38, § 1 (part), 2014; Ord. 2007-47 § 1 (part), 2007; Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.030 Water wasting prohibited.

At no time may a person waste water or use water unreasonably. Wasteful or unreasonable uses of water include but are not limited to the following practices:

A. Causing or permitting water to leave a property by drainage onto adjacent property or public or private roadways or streets due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks.

B. Failing to repair a water leak following initial notification.

C. Washing driveways, sidewalks, parking areas, or other impervious surface areas with an open hose or with a spray nozzle attached to an open hose or, through other means, under regular or system pressure, except when required to eliminate conditions that threaten the public health, safety, or welfare. This restriction does not apply to residential customers.

(Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.040 Drought Stages—Required drought conservation measures.

Following the declaration of a drought stage, no person may make, cause, use, or permit the use of water for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this section, or in an

amount in excess of that use permitted by the drought management stage. The water use restrictions in each less restrictive stage apply to all more restrictive stages unless the higher stage has a more stringent requirement on the same subject.

A. Stage 1, Water Alert. During a water alert, the department shall issue one or more notifications to the public. The department shall ask all persons to implement voluntary reductions in water use, ask restaurants to provide water only upon request, urge hotels and motels to conserve water, and engage in a campaign to increase public education to promote awareness about water conservation issues.

B. Stage 2, Water Warning. During a water warning, the following additional conservation measures will be implemented:

1. Persons may only irrigate landscaping between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
2. Persons working in or operating restaurant-type uses may provide water only upon request.
3. No person may operate outdoor misters;
4. No person may operate or use public fountains or water features;
5. No natural person may wash a car except with use of a bucket and a shut-off nozzle;
6. No charity car washes may occur except at commercial car washes that recycle water; and
7. No person may overseed turf areas. Areas to be irrigated exclusively by a rainwater harvesting system are exempt from this measure.

C. Stage 3, Water Emergency. During a water emergency, the following additional conservation measures will be implemented:

1. No person may fill a newly constructed residential pool. Pool permits will remain in active status for three months after stage 3 is downgraded to stage 2;
2. No person may operate a car wash unless it is equipped with a water recirculation system; and
3. A person may top off a pool only to maintain water level; no person may refill a pool.

D. Stage 4, Water Crisis. During a water crisis, the following additional conservation measures will be implemented:

1. Landscape irrigation is restricted to only trees and shrubs; a person may irrigate turf or ground cover with harvested rainwater only;
2. No person may fill a newly constructed pool. Pool permits will remain in active status for three months after stage 4 is downgraded to stage 2;

3. No person may use water to wash a car except for water captured by a rainwater harvesting system;
4. No person may use water to clean a parking lot or street; and
5. No person may use potable water in construction projects, either for dust control or toward the erection of new improvements or structures.

(Ord. 2014-38, § 1 (part), 2014: Ord. 2007-47 § 1 (part), 2007; Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.050 Declaration of drought stage.

A. Drought Stage Trigger. The triggers defining each drought stage are listed in [Table 8.70.050](#).

B. Declaration of Drought. A drought stage for all or any area of the county may be declared by the board of supervisors upon a recommendation from the county administrator and information developed by the local drought impact group. A declaration by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior of either a shortage on the Colorado River or a curtailment of water delivered through the Central Arizona Project canal to any local water provider may increase the drought level by one stage. If the severity of the drought lessens, the board of supervisors may downgrade the drought stage to a lower stage.

Table 8.70.050

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Arizona Drought Monitor Report¹ Based on Findings Related to Pima County</i>
Stage 1 Alert	Moderate-Severe
Stage 2 Warning	Severe-Extreme
Stage 3 Emergency	Extreme-Exceptional
Stage 4 Crisis	Exceptional

1 See <http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/drought/MTC.html>

(Ord. 2014-38, § 1 (part), 2014: Ord. 2007-47 § 1 (part), 2007; Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.060 Variances.

The director is authorized to review hardship cases and special cases within which strict application of this chapter would result in serious hardship to a person. A variance may be granted only for reasons involving health, safety or economic hardship. Application for variance from requirements of this chapter must be made on a form provided by the director.

(Ord. 2007-47 § 1 (part), 2007; Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.070 Technical assistance.

The director shall continually monitor and report the nature and severity of the drought condition to the county administrator or designee.

(Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)

8.70.080 Violation—Enforcement.

A. In the event of any violation of this chapter, the department shall post on the property where the violation occurred written notice and mail a duplicate notice to the registered owner of the property and to any person known to the department who is responsible for the violation or its correction. Such notice shall describe the violation and order that it be corrected, ceased or abated immediately or within such specified time as the department determines is reasonable under the circumstances and shall further contain a description of the fees and penalties associated with such violation. If the cited person fails to comply with such order, the department will contact the water provider who may disconnect the service where the violation occurs. The property owner will be responsible for any reconnection charges in addition to other fees or charges imposed by the water provider.

B. In addition to being grounds for discontinuation of service, violation of any provision of this chapter is a civil infraction. Any person found to be non-compliant with any provision of this chapter may be assessed a civil penalty of not less than two hundred fifty dollars for a violation occurring during drought management stage 2, not less than four hundred dollars for a violation occurring during drought management stage 3, and not less than six hundred dollars for a violation occurring during drought management stage 4. Each act of violation and every day upon which such violation occurs shall constitute a separate infraction. The Director may also seek injunctive relief.

(Ord. 2007-47 § 1 (part), 2007; Ord. 2006-43 § 1 (part), 2006)