

Memo

To: City of Grey Forest Water Customers
From: Jeff English, General Manager, Grey Forest Utilities
Subject: **Continuing Drought and Implementation of Stage Two**

Notice of Stage Two-Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

In the summer of 2022, the Grey Forest Water System issued a **Stage One Drought Condition** notice to all customers of the Grey Forest Water System informing everyone that the level of our wells had dropped below the level of 450 feet in our wells and we asked that everyone try their best to voluntarily conserve water until the drought had ended and the wells had returned to normal levels. We have remained at Stage One which called for voluntary restrictions since that time.

The Current Situation:

Recently the wells have hovered near the 500-foot level in our wells and currently they are at approximately 500 feet. The City of Grey Forest has a drought contingency plan *that must be implemented* as the water wells approach or pass certain well levels. At this time the plan requires that Stage 2 be implemented. *Stage 2 is not voluntary; the restrictions are mandatory and failure to follow the restrictions can lead to you being in violation of the ordinance and you may be fined.* We have included a copy of the Drought Contingency Plan for your convenience. I encourage you to read it. It can also be reviewed on the City of Grey Forest website under the city code.

Reason for Limiting water use and times of use:

The continuing drought has had a negative impact on our well levels and thus the supply of water that is available to our water customers has been impacted. Limiting certain types of water use and the timing of the use will ensure plenty of water is available for your essential needs.

Requirements:

As a Stage 2 severe water condition exists there is a goal of reducing the total water usage of the systems by 20%

Per the Grey Forest drought contingency plan enacted by the City of Grey Forest, the Stage 2 water use restrictions are now in force for all Grey Forest Water System customer. Violations will result in penalties:

- A. Water customers are required to limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to the hours between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- B. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited.
- C. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- D. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
- E. Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the city water system.
- F. All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.
- G. The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
 - I. Wash-down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.

- II. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
- III. Use of water for dust control.
- IV. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
- V. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

Request:

Please check to be sure that you have fixed any leaks in your water lines and your irrigation systems. Please water your flowers and shrubs by hand and only use water outside during the times that it is permitted under the Stage 2 restrictions. Don't use water for prohibited uses under the contingency plan.

Also, please be observant and report to GFU any concerns you may have about water being wasted or removed/drained or pumped from our water system during the drought emergency. The number you can call to report potential waste or theft of water from the system is the GFU office number 210-695-8781 and of course you can contact the Grey Forest Police Department or City Hall.

Conclusion:

If we find that the wells are not sustaining their levels on a continuing basis under Stage Two it is possible that we may have to implement Stage 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan and use of water is further restricted to preserve the water supply for all customers. You have been provided with a hard copy of the contingency plan with this notice. You can also obtain a copy of the Drought Contingency Plan at City Hall or at the GFU Offices or on the GFU Website look for **Services and Resources** on the top header of the page, click on it and select **Water**....click on that and look for **Water Contingency Plan**.

Thank You in advance for your cooperation!