

**LA CUMBRE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
WATER CONSERVATION PLAN**

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Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

The La Cumbre Mutual Water Company (LCMWC) was formed in 1925 to serve water to owners in Hope Ranch and the area known as the Hope Ranch Annex. LCMWC is a non-profit, share-holder owned mutual water company with each landowner holding shares proportionate to their land area. The LCMWC currently provides potable water to residential, commercial and agricultural customers within its 2,000-acre service area. LCMWC expects to provide reclaimed water to La Cumbre Country Club late in 2021.

This Water Conservation Plan (Plan) provides information regarding LCMWC's water conservation and demand management plans during various stages of water supply shortage. This Plan sets out LCMWC's water supply/conservation strategies by considering current estimates of LCMWC's water supplies, current and near-term future demand, and identifying appropriate management and conservation strategies to adequately meet the needs of our customers. This Plan serves as a "road map" to guide the implementation of water conservation actions in response to anticipated water supply shortages.

WATER CONSERVATION/DEMAND REDUCTION PLAN

Water management organizations have developed and refined a suite of operational best-practices to simultaneously implement water conservation and demand reduction measures and to meet their customers' needs, particularly in periods of drought and other emergency water shortages.

LCMWC is committed to considering all reasonably implementable water conservation measures. For example, LCMWC has implemented a water conservation rebate program to assist customers acquire up-to-date water conservation equipment. Building upon the experience of local water agencies, with the intent of meeting the water supply needs of the LCMWC service area in periods of limited water supplies, the LCMWC has considered and approved the following water demand reduction plan. This Plan is consistent with various sections of the California Water Code intended to:

- Establish a four-stage water supply-demand scale to guide LCMWC's response to water supply conditions;
- Identify LCMWC's response to catastrophic interruption of water supplies;
- Identify mandatory prohibitions against specific water use practices during water shortages;
- Specify consumption reduction methods in the most restrictive stages; and
- Indicate consequences (including penalties or charges) for excessive use

Consistent with LCMWC operational experience and the operational experience of other nearby water management agencies during recent water shortages, including severe droughts conditions, this Plan describes a four-stage scale to respond to water shortage conditions. It reflects LCMWC's experience that each shortage situation is different, and requires flexibility to respond to rapidly changing water conditions. This Plan seeks to address the need to comply with State water reduction mandates and water use regulations. The Board of Directors is cognizant to the effect of raising the water rate and/or decreasing the water tiers has to both monetarily encourage water conservation while simultaneously creating a means for LCMWC to purchase supplemental water.

Table 1 lists the four, water supply-demand stages and describes the corresponding supply shortage conditions, demand reduction targets, and demand reduction measures, if necessary. The four water shortage stages and the potential corresponding demand reduction measures are described in more detail in separate sections to follow.¹

Table 1. LCMWC Water Shortage Stages

Demand Reduction Stage	Supply Shortage Condition	Demand Reduction Target	Demand Reduction Measures
Normal	LCMWC estimates water supply is at least 100% of demand	0%	None
One	LCMWC estimates water supply is at least 85% of normal.	15%	LCMWC will encourage voluntary water conservation measures. Water use will be closely monitored.
Two (Critical)	LCMWC estimates water supply is at least 70% of normal.	30%	LCMWC will implement mandatory conservation measures consistent with California Water Code Section 350 et seq. ²
Three (Extreme)	LCMWC estimates water supply to be at least 50% of normal.	50%	LCMWC will implement mandatory conservation measures consistent with California Water Code Section 350 et seq. ²
Four (Emergency)	LCMWC estimates water supply is 50% or less than normal, likely to occur in the event of a catastrophic water supply interruption.	More than 50%	LCMWC will implement mandatory conservation measures consistent with California Water Code Section 350 et seq. ²

Normal Conditions – Water supplies are considered normal in a given year when 1) LCMWC is able to extract and deliver more than 1,000 AFY from local groundwater basins; 2) the SWP allocations are projected to be in excess of 50% of the “Table A” Allocations for the following water year; and 3) there are no extraordinary shortages in other LCMWC supplies. Under these water supply conditions the LCMWC will continue:

- Its ongoing efforts to conserve water supply sources, by, for example, responsibly managing watersheds, recharging groundwater basins, and developing optimal groundwater pumping capacity;
- Disseminating public information regarding water awareness and utilizing tiered rate pricing designed to encourage water conservation;
- Coordinating with the City and the Goleta Water District to extend and expand the use of recycled water within LCMWC’s service area, where feasible and cost effective;

¹ The demand reduction measures described in the tables below may not represent an exhaustive list of measures LCMWC may implement during water shortage conditions.

² During a declared water shortage emergency, Water Code section 350 et seq. authorizes a mutual water company providing a public water supply to adopt regulations and restrictions on delivery and consumption of water for purposes of conserving water and meeting human consumption, sanitation and fire protection needs as its priority, even though such restrictions may conflict with laws that establish the rights of individual consumers to receive water on a particular basis. (Water Code § 357.)

- Monitoring water supply and demands, including actual versus projected consumption and cumulative commitments to serve;
- Identifying and helping customers with unusually high usage consumption to limit water leaks and other water use;
- Encouraging customers to implement water conservation measures, such as the installation of gray water and rainwater catchment and use systems, installing low-water- use landscape, installing high-efficiency plumbing and irrigation retrofits.

Table 2 below identifies demand reduction measures that LCMWC will continue to encourage and will consider implementing during normal year water conditions. These measures have been effective in providing substantial reductions in demand during recent droughts.

Table 2: Demand reductions - Normal conditions

Demand Reduction Topic	Explanation
Water surveys and leak detection	LCMWC provides surveys to identify leaks to prevent and decrease water losses and waste. Customers are required to repair any leaky or malfunctioning devices expeditiously.
Rebates on water saving plumbing and other devices or fixtures	LCMWC offers and intends to expand current rebate offers for specific water saving devices and plumbing fixtures.
Landscaping irrigation	Customers are encouraged to limit irrigation practices that result in runoff onto nearby surfaces (outside their intended use).
Post rainfall event irrigation	Customers are encouraged to limit landscape irrigation with potable water during rain events and within 48 hours after a measurable rain event.
Landscaping irrigation	Customers are encouraged to water between 9 PM and 10 AM to reduce evaporation while irrigating.
Outdoor hardscape cleaning	Customers are encouraged to use a broom or blower to clean hardscape, rather than using water.
Vehicles washing	Customers are encouraged to wash their cars and other vehicles at car washes, where water is naturally infiltrated or recycled.
Landscape evaporation control	Customers are encouraged to place mulch around landscape to retain soil moisture
Landscape plantings	Customers are encouraged to plant native and drought tolerant plants.
Lodging Linen Service	Hotels should encourage patrons to forego daily washing of towels and linens.
Restaurants to serve water only on request	Restaurants should use placards provided by LCMWC to notify patrons that water will only be served upon request.

Stage 1 Water Shortage— LCMWC will declare a Stage 1 Water Shortage if LCMWC staff determines that LCMWC’s supplies are expected to be at least 15% below normal, as defined in the water supply assessment, considering guidance from the State. Before LCMWC’s Board considers whether to declare a Stage 1 Water Shortage, LCMWC’s staff will prepare a water supply assessment for consideration by the Board describing the:

- Status of local groundwater supplies and operational constraints;
- Status of the anticipated SWP allocations and constraints to deliver those allocations;
- Status of other water supplies and constraints;
- Anticipated availability of stored water;
- Anticipated availability of purchasing water via one-time, short-term transfer agreements; and
- Qualitative assessment of alternative water supply scenarios based on various levels of assumed supply availability.

The Board will consider the staff report and staff recommendations regarding whether LCMWC should adopt a resolution declaring a Stage 1 Water Shortage. LCMWC customers will be advised of the resolution and the need to voluntarily implement water conservation measures to reduce water use by approximately 15%. Individual customers’ water use will be closely monitored to limit any waste of water to evaluate supply and demand issues and determine the effectiveness of voluntary conservation measures. During a Stage 1 Water Shortage, LCMWC will continue to encourage customers to voluntarily implement enhanced water conservation measures, some of which are listed in Table 2 above. LCMWC will also disseminate public information to promote awareness.

Stage 2 Critical Water Shortage—A Stage 2 Critical Water Shortage exists when anticipated water supplies are expected to drop to 30% below normal. When LCMWC staff identify such conditions, LCMWC’s Board will declare a Water Shortage Emergency pursuant to Water Code section 350 *et. seq.* Such a declaration will follow a noticed public hearing. A Stage 2 Water Shortage Condition requires an additional reduction in other water available. Such a declaration will follow a similar process as described for the Stage 1 declaration including a staff analysis and report to the Board and an announcement to all customers. The report will address the need for demand reduction by LCMWC customers;

- Specific water use restrictions, including the potential to prioritize water uses such as drinking water and sanitation, to respond to the shortage;
- Potential temporary water supplies that may be available to augment the projected supply; and
- Revenue implications to LCMWC operations and any need for changes in water rates.

The Board will consider the staff report and recommendation regarding whether LCMWC should adopt a resolution declaring a Water Shortage Emergency pursuant to Water Code section 350 *et seq.*² LCMWC customers will be advised of the water supply shortage and the need for an overall (mandatory) reduction in water use of approximately 30%.

The advisory will briefly describe the:

- water supply conditions and the efforts to acquire additional water resources;
- required water use reductions and mandatory demand reductions;

- customers role in achieving these reductions;
- suspension of the issuance of new agricultural meters;
- enforcement actions that may be necessary for non-participation of conservation actions; and
- individual customer water use will be closely monitored to limit/prohibit water waste.

The Board will consider the staff report and staff recommendations regarding whether LCMWC should adopt a resolution declaring a Stage 2 Water Shortage. LCMWC customers will be advised of the resolution and the need to implement water conservation measures to reduce water use by approximately 30%.

During a Stage 2 Water Shortage, LCMWC will continue to encourage customers to voluntarily implement enhanced water conservation measures, some of which are listed in Table 2 above. LCMWC will also continue disseminating public information to promote awareness. In addition to implementing the conservation measures identified in Table 2 above, LCMWC may implement some or all of the demand reduction measures listed in Table 3. A Stage 2 Critical Water Shortage declaration may limit water deliveries to sustain fire protection, sanitation and human consumption or impose other water service restrictions, consistent with California Water Code Section 350 et seq.²

Table 3 identifies demand reduction measures that, in addition to those identified in Table 2, LCMWC will consider implementing during a Stage 2 Water Shortage. These methods have been effective in providing substantial reductions in demand during recent droughts.

Table 3: Stage 2 demand reductions – Critical water shortage conditions

Demand Reduction Measures	Explanation
Increase Water Waste Patrols	LCMWC will increase wateruse monitoring to discourage water wasting and encourage efficient water practices.
Nozzles	LCMWC will only allow hoses with automatic shutoff nozzle fixtures.
Prohibit vehicle washing	LCMWC will prohibit washings cars, boats, trailers, or other vehicles except with an automatic hose shutoff nozzle or at commercial or fleet vehicle washing facilities using water recycling equipment.
Landscape — Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	LCMWC will prohibit irrigation during the hours 10 AM to 9 PM when evaporation is highest.
Lodging linen service	LCMWC will require hotels/motels to provide guests with the option to reuse towels and linens for more than one day before washing.
Restaurants serve water upon request	LCMWC will require that restaurantsor other public places where food is served only serve drinking water to customers if it is expressly requested.
Prohibit use of potable water for washing hard surfaces	LCMWC will prohibit use of potable water to wash sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, open ground, or other hard-surfaced areas except where necessary for public health or safety.

Water Rationing	LCMWC may adopt additional regulations and restrictions on delivery and consumption of water for purposes of conserving water and meeting human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection needs as its priority consistent with California Water Code Section 350, <i>et seq.</i>
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Stage 3 Extreme Water Shortage— Stage 3 water shortage conditions would be identified by LCMWC staff and declared by the LCMWC Board when anticipated water supplies are expected to be up to 50% below normal. A Stage 3 Water Shortage Condition requires an extraordinary reduction in other water supplies available.

Such a declaration will follow a similar process as described for the Stage 2 declaration including a staff analysis and report to the Board. Following a public meeting on this subject the Board would announce demand reduction measures to all customers. During a Stage 3 Water Shortage, LCMWC will continue to encourage customers to voluntarily implement enhanced water conservation measures, some of which are listed in Table 4 above. LCMWC will also continue disseminating public information to promote awareness. In addition to implementing some or all of the conservation measures identified in Table 5 above, LCMWC may implement some or all of the conservation measures listed in Table 4.

A Stage 3 Extreme Water Shortage declaration may limit water deliveries to sustain fire protection, sanitation and human consumption or impose other water service restrictions, consistent with California Water Code Section 350 *et seq.*²

Table 4 identifies the mandatory demand reduction measures that, in addition to those identified in Table 3, LCMWC may require during a Stage 3 Water Shortage. These methods have proven to be effective in providing substantial reductions in demand in adjacent jurisdictions during the drought of the late 1980s and in the recent record drought that began in the mid-2010s.

Table 4: Stage 3 demand reductions – Extreme water shortage conditions

Demand Reduction Measures	Explanation
Landscape — Limit landscape irrigation to specific days	LCMWC will limit water use to assigned watering days, which may depend on seasonal changes as well such as summer and winter.
Water Features — Restrict water use for decorative water features	LCMWC will prohibit use of potable water to fill or maintain decorative fountains and water features, unless it is located indoors or in a home to aquatic life.
Other water feature or swimming pool restriction	LCMWC will prohibit refilling of pools and spas.
Water Rationing	LCMWC will adopt regulations and restrictions on delivery and consumption of water for purposes of conserving water and meeting human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection needs as its priority consistent with California Water Code Section 350, <i>et seq.</i>

Stage 4 Emergency Water Shortage— A Stage 4 Emergency Water Shortage occurs when LCMWC declares a water service emergency following a catastrophic event, such as a major earthquake or natural disaster, that substantially reduces or restricts LCMWC’s ability to provide potable water to its customers. During a Stage 4 Emergency Water Shortage, LCMWC will implement its Emergency Response Plan and take the necessary steps to expeditiously restore service to its customers.

During a Stage 4 Water Shortage, LCMWC will continue to encourage customers to voluntarily implement enhanced water conservation measures, some of which are listed in Table 4 above. LCMWC will also continue disseminating public information to promote awareness. In addition to implementing some or all of the conservation measures identified in Table 3 and Table 4 above, LCMWC may implement some or all of the conservation measures listed in Table 5.

A Stage 4 Extreme Water Shortage declaration may limit water deliveries to sustain fire protection, sanitation and human consumption or impose other water service restrictions, consistent with California Water Code Section 350 et seq.²

Table 5 identifies the mandatory demand reduction measures that, in addition to those identified in Table 3 and Table 4, LCMWC may require during a Stage 4 Water Shortage.

Table 5: Stage 4 demand reductions – Water emergency conditions

Demand Reduction Measures	Explanation
Landscape — Other landscape restriction or prohibition	LCMWC may restrict or prohibit all outside water use.
Other outdoor uses	LCMWC may prohibit other outdoor water use – filling swimming pools, dust control, etc.
Water rationing	LCMWC may adopt regulations and restrictions on delivery and consumption of water for purposes of conserving water and meeting human consumption, sanitation and fire protection needs as its priority consistent with California Water Code Section 350, <i>et seq.</i>
Moratorium or Net Zero New Demand	LCMWC may temporarily limit or ban new water service connections within the service area.

For reference, California Legislative Water Code 350 below.

WATER CODE - WAT

DIVISION 1. GENERAL STATE POWERS OVER WATER [100 - 540]

(Division 1 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 368.)

CHAPTER 3. Water Shortage Emergencies [350 - 359]

(Chapter 3 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 140.)

350.

The governing body of a distributor of a public water supply, whether publicly or privately owned and including a mutual water company, shall declare a water shortage emergency condition to prevail within the area served by such distributor whenever it finds and determines that the ordinary demands and requirements of water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection.

(Amended by Stats. 2018, Ch. 14, Sec. 1. (SB 606) Effective January 1, 2019.)