



CITY OF HEMET
HEMET, CALIFORNIA
ORDINANCE NO. 1997

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
HEMET, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING DIVISION 3, "WATER
CONSERVATION PLAN," OF THE CITY 'S MUNICIPAL
CODE.

WHEREAS, the City of Hemet owns and operates a water production and distribution system that provides potable drinking water to customers throughout its service area. The City of Hemet has over 9,000 water customer accounts and serves a population over 30,000; and,

WHEREAS, to comply with the California Water Code Division 6 Conservation, Development, and Utilization of State Water Resources and to assure an adequate water supply for the community, the city is required to adopt a mandatory water conservation plan; and,

WHEREAS, California Legislature passed AB 1668(Friedman) and SB 606 (Hertzberg), that lays out a new long-term water conservation framework for California; and,

WHEREAS the City recognizes a need for the revision of the City's current "Water Conservation Plan," as set forth in Chapter 82, Article III, Division 3 of the Municipal Code; and,

WHEREAS, revisions to the Water Conservation Ordinance will align the city with other local agencies and their water conservation programs, along with setting the six

1 Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels which were previously adopted in the City's
2 Urban Water Management Plan in 2021

3 **WHEREAS**, the City last revised the existing Water Conservation Plan in 2015.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HEMET DOES**
5 **DETERMINE, FIND AND RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

6 **SECTION 1: ADD new Section 82-127 (d) "Declaration of Policy" to read as**
7 **follows:**

8 (d) It is declared that the City shall, for the general public health, safety and welfare,
9 to comply with the California Water Code Division 6 Conservation, Development, and
10 Utilization of State Water Resources and to assure an adequate water supply for the
11 community, requires a mandatory water conservation plan to be authorized.
12

13 **SECTION 2 –AMEND Section 82-129 "Effective Date of Plan" to read as set forth**
14 **in bold italic:**

15 This division shall be effective upon its adoption. Specific water conservation phases
16 described in this division shall be effective by subsequent action of the city council in the
17 case of a water supply shortage ***or by executive action of the City Manager as***
18 ***recommended by the Public Works Director or Water/ Wastewater Superintendent***
19 ***in the case of an emergency water shortage.***
20

21 **SECTION 3 – ADD new Section 82-130 "Purpose" as follows:**

22 This water conservation ordinance is to minimize the effects of a water shortage to
23 the water customers of the city, to comply with California Water Code, and to significantly
24 reduce the delivery and consumption of water, thereby extending the period that water
25 may be supplied or delivered to the distribution system of the City.
26

27 **SECTION 4 – DELETE existing Section 82-131 "Implementation of division;**
28

1 **water conservation commission” and replace with Section 82-131 “Implementation**
2 **of division” to read as follows:**

3 The City Manager, Public Works Director, Water/Wastewater Superintendent or
4 other designated City representative is hereby authorized and directed to implement the
5 provisions of this division as approved by the City Council.
6

7 **SECTION 5 – Section 82-132 through Section 82-136 are hereby deleted in their**
8 **entirety and the following Sections 82-132 through Section 82-144 are hereby**
9 **added:**

10 **Sec. 82-132. - Definitions.**

11 The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the
12 meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a
13 different meaning:
14

15 **AWSDA** means Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

16 **City** means the City of Hemet

17 **CII** means Commercial, Industrial and Institutional customers

18 **Customer** means any person or persons, corporation, public or private entity,
19 governmental agency or institution or any other user of water provided by the City.
20

21 **Landscape Irrigation System** means a system with controllers, valves, pipes,
22 hoses, spray heads or sprinkling devices that are operated by hand or through an
23 automated system used to water outdoor landscaping.

24 **Water Shortage Contingency Plan Stages** means the established actions and
25 procedures for managing water supply and demands during water shortages.

26 **Sec. 82-133. – Permanent Water Conservation Requirements.**

27 The following water efficiency requirements shall continuously apply to all existing
28

1 customers regardless of city or statewide drought status:

2 (a) Hosing down driveways and other hard surfaces, is prohibited except for health
3 or sanitary reasons and then only by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container, a
4 hand-held hose equipped with a positive water shut-off device or a low-volume, high-
5 pressure cleaning machine equipped to recover and recycle any water used.
6

7 (b) No customer of the water division shall permit water to leak or runoff from any
8 property where conditions may be corrected or reasonably modified to prevent such
9 leakage or runoff.

10 (c) Property owners are only allowed to irrigate landscape between the hours of 6:00
11 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This provision does not apply when:

12 (1) Manually watering landscape with a hose containing a positive shut-off device
13 attached.
14

15 (2) During the establishment period for new landscape.

16 (3) For very short periods of time for the purpose of adjusting or repairing an irrigation
17 system.

18 (d) The watering or irrigating of any lawn, landscape or other vegetated area with
19 potable water using a hose watering device that is not continuously attended is prohibited.
20

21 (e) Use of decorative fountains, unless they are equipped with a recirculating system,
22 are prohibited.

23 (f) Where potable water is used for commercial cooling systems, such as chillers,
24 cooling towers, and building air conditioning systems, the water must be recirculated to
25 the maximum extent feasible.

26 (g) Water shall not be allowed to run while washing vehicles. A hand-held bucket or
27 similar container and/or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive water shut-off device
28

1 shall be allowed.

2 (h) Watering or irrigating any lawn, landscape or other vegetated area during rain
3 events or within forty-eight (48) hours after a rain event in which 0.5-inches or greater
4 accumulated rain has fallen in the previous 24-hour period, is prohibited.

5 (i) Operators of hotels and motels shall post notices in each guest room urging guests
6 to conserve water, and shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels
7 and linens laundered daily. Notice of this option shall be displayed in each guestroom
8 using clear and easily understood language. The City shall provide appropriate language
9 upon request.

10 (j) Restaurants or other public places where food is served shall only serve water to
11 their customers upon request.

12
13 **Sec. 82-134. – Obligation to fix leaks, breaks, or malfunctions.**

14 Excessive waste, loss or escape of water through breaks, leaks or other malfunctions
15 in the water user's plumbing, irrigation, or distribution system shall be repaired in a timely
16 manner.

17 (a) Minor exterior leaks shall be repaired within seven (7) business days of the
18 property owner receiving written notice of the leak by the City.

19 (b) All substantial exterior leaks as identified by the City's Water Division personnel
20 shall be repaired within forty-eight (48) hours of written notification from the City, unless
21 other arrangements are made with the City's Water Division in writing.

22 (c) The City may shut off the water supply to a property when repair of exterior leaks
23 have not been timely made after prior written notice from the City as set forth in 82-134(b)
24 above, and are causing the continual and excessive waste of water to exist and discharges
25 from the property.
26
27
28

1 **Sec. 82-135. – Requirements for new landscape.**

2 All landscaping and irrigation shall comply with the City of Hemet Municipal Code
3 Chapter 90 - Zoning, Article XLVIII. - Landscaping and Irrigation.

4 **Sec. 82-136. – Enforcement of water wasting.**

5 Shall be in accordance with the City of Hemet Municipal Code Chapter I Article II.

6 **Sec. 82-137. - Appeals.**

7 Right to an administrative hearing and waiver of advance deposit shall be in
8 accordance with City of Hemet Municipal Code Chapter I Article II Section 1-27.

9 **Sec. 82-138. - Variances.**

10 General variance criteria. No relief shall be granted unless the customer
11 demonstrates maximum practical water reduction, including, but not limited to, the
12 installation of low flow showerheads, toilets, water conserving devices on all faucets,
13 installation of irrigation controllers with rain shutoff features, and the repair of all leaks. All
14 requests for Variances shall be submitted in writing to the City Manager or their designee.
15 Upon review, the City Water/Wastewater Superintendent or his designated representative
16 may require a water audit to verify conditions.

17 (a) Residential variance criteria. A variance may be granted to provide relief to a
18 residential customer that reflects changes in circumstances, such as:

19 (1) Irrigation of new plantings, when their installation occurred prior to adoption of
20 water use restrictions.

21 (2) Medical conditions as certified by a physician or other medical professional.

22 (3) Abatement of health or safety hazards.

23 (4) Change of the occupancy or number of occupants of the residence.

24 (5) Other circumstances submitted in writing by the customer, and as may be
25
26
27
28

1 warranted based on the determination of the City Manager, Public Works Director, or
2 Water/Wastewater Superintendent.

3 (b) Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) variance criteria. A variance may be
4 granted to provide relief to a CII customer to reflect changes in circumstances which have
5 occurred, such as:

6
7 (1) Irrigation of new plantings, when their installation occurred prior to adoption of
8 mandatory water use restrictions.

9 (2) Increased in the number of employees.

10 (3) Production of new products which require an increase in process water.

11 (4) Increase in business activities.

12 (5) Abatement of health or safety hazards.

13
14 (6) Other information submitted in writing by the customer, and as may be warranted
15 based on the determination of the City Manager, Public Works Director, or
16 Water/Wastewater Superintendent.

17 **Sec. 82-139. – Water shortage.**

18 A water shortage may exist based upon the occurrence of one or more of the
19 following conditions:

20
21 (1) A major failure of any or all supply, storage or distribution facilities of the city water
22 and reservoir system that decreases the City's ability to meet customer maximum daily
23 water demand through its own sources or through interconnects with other water agencies.

24 (2) A water supply shortage due to the inability of the City to meet acceptable water
25 quality standards mandated by the State health department.

26 (3) A general water supply shortage due to increased demand or limited supplies
27 from either the City's own sources or other regional sources.
28

1 (4) A significant decline in the underground aquifer which the City relies upon and as
2 measured by the height of water in the City's wells.

3 (5) A complete long-term power failure of all electrical connections from the electrical
4 provider in which the City may not be able to replace through backup generators or other
5 means.
6

7 **Sec. 82-140. – Emergency Water Shortage Response.**

8 (a) The City Manager may invoke emergency water shortage restrictions when a
9 major failure occurs, whether temporary or permanent, in the supply, the water quality, the
10 distribution lines, or the reservoirs of the city's water system or;

11 (b) When the Governor and State Water Board find and declares that an emergency
12 exists due to severe drought conditions and that adoption of proposed emergency
13 regulations is necessary to address the emergency.
14

15 **Sec. 82-141. - Water Shortage Contingency.**

16 This section establishes six Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels to be
17 implemented in the case of an emergency water shortage. During times of a water
18 shortage and based on the severity of the water shortage, the City Council shall direct the
19 City Manager, the Public Works Director, the Water/Wastewater Superintendent or a
20 designated City representative to implement the provisions of this division.
21

22 To provide a consistent regional and statewide approach for conveying the relative
23 severity of water supply shortage conditions, the 2018 Water Conservation Legislation
24 mandates that water suppliers plan for six standard Water Shortage Contingency Plan
25 Levels that correspond to progressive reductions of up to 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 percent, and
26 greater than 50 percent from the normal reliability condition. Each shortage condition
27 should correspond to additional actions water suppliers would implement to meet the
28

1 severity of the impending shortages. For each declared water supply shortage level,
2 customers will be required to reduce consumption by the percentage specified in the
3 corresponding Water Shortage Contingency Plan Level listed in Table 1, below.

4 (a) Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels shall be implemented and shall
5 continue as necessary, with additional mandatory water use restrictions enacted if the
6 target water savings are not achieved within thirty (30) calendar days of the declared water
7 shortage.
8

9 (b) For each of the State's standard shortage levels (also called "stages"), Table 1
10 summarizes the water shortage range (i.e., percent shortage from normal supplies) and a
11 brief narrative description of the corresponding water shortage condition. These water
12 shortage stages apply to both foreseeable and unforeseeable water supply shortage
13 conditions. Table 1 presents the City's reorganized stages, which align with the State's
14 current standard stages.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Table 1. Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels

Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Water Shortage Condition Definition	Shortage Response Actions
1	Up to 10%	Adequate supply is currently available. To protect and preserve water supply, the elimination of wasteful water uses is encouraged.	Voluntary conservation. See Demand Reduction Actions
2	Up to 20%	There is sufficient uncertainty concerning water supply, either based upon AWSDA findings or unforeseeable event, to lead to the conclusion that supply may not adequately meet normal demand in the current or upcoming years.	Mandatory Conservation. See Demand Reduction Actions
3	Up to 30%	Definable events, including but not limited to AWSDA findings, lead to a reasonable conclusion that in the current and/or upcoming water years, water supplies may not be adequate to meet all customer water demands. Or, previous water conservation target has not been met, therefore further action is necessary.	Mandatory conservation. See Demand Reduction Actions
4	Up to 40%	Definable events, including but not limited to AWSDA findings, lead to a firm conclusion that in the current water year, water supplies will not be adequate to meet customers' water demands; and/or previous water conservation target has not been met, therefore further action is necessary to reduce water demand.	Mandatory conservation. See Demand Reduction Actions
5	Up to 50%	Definable events, including but not limited to AWSDA findings, lead to a firm conclusion that water supplies are considerable inadequate to meet customers' water demands; and/or previous water conservation target has not been met, therefore further action is necessary to reduce water demand.	Mandatory conservation. See Demand Reduction Actions
6	>50%	Definable events, including but not limited to AWSDA findings, have severely compromised water supplies in the current water year, and/or earlier stages have been in effect and the reduction goal is not being meet, therefore further action is necessary to reduce water demand.	Mandatory conservation. See Demand Reduction Actions

Notes: AWSDA = Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Sec. 82-142. - Shortage Response Actions and Effectiveness.

The City will track progress toward water use reduction goals through a comparative analysis of total monthly water production volumes between comparable months such as July of the current year with July of the previous year. The analysis will compare the drought month production for a specific month with the previous non-drought month production in the previous year to obtain a percent reduction. The City will increase or decrease its public outreach efforts based on observed usage reduction. The Demand Reduction Actions discussed in section 82-144 may be considered as tools that allow the City to respond to water shortage conditions. The City will adjust response actions to demands and available water.

Sec. 82-143. - Demand Reduction.

(a) The City may request that its customers reduce their water demands in response to any water shortage stage through public outreach. During water shortage conditions, the City plans to reduce demand by implementing the actions in Section 82-144. Demand reduction actions are organized by the triggering water shortage level. The City will continue to use these actions in the lower stages unless otherwise noted.

(b) If the residential customer’s usage amount reaches an amount equal to or below the State standard for residential indoor water use as adopted by the California State Legislature (through AB 1668, Friedman-2018.), then no further water conservation is required for residential customers.

Sec. 82-144. - Demand Reduction Actions.

(a) **Shortage Level 1 – Voluntary Conservation.** In order to achieve an overall system-wide reduction goal of up to ten-percent (10%), all potable water customers of the City are requested to:

1 (1) Protect and preserve water supply and eliminate wasteful water use.

2 (b) **Shortage Level 2 – Mandatory Compliance Water Shortage Watch.** The City
3 Council may, by resolution, declare a Shortage Level 2 upon recommendation by the City
4 Manager based on water supply and delivery projections by the Water/Wastewater
5 Superintendent that an overall system-wide reduction of up to twenty-percent (20%) is
6 necessary, taking into consideration projections and estimates made by the
7 Water/Wastewater Superintendent pertaining to the City's water supply. In order to
8 achieve an overall system-wide reduction of up to twenty-percent (20%), the following
9 prohibitions shall be enacted:
10

11 (1) Protect and preserve water supply and eliminate wasteful water use.

12 (2) Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the
13 persons it serves to no more than once every other day. Even numbered property
14 addresses may only water on even dates of the month and odd numbered property
15 addresses may only water on odd dates of the month.
16

17 (3) Any use of water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fires or essential
18 construction needs and system flushing, as determined by the City's Water Division, shall
19 be prohibited
20

21 (c) **Shortage Level 3 – Mandatory Compliance – Water Shortage Warning.** The
22 City Council may, by resolution, declare a Shortage Level 3 upon recommendation by the
23 City Manager based on water supply and delivery projections by the Water/Wastewater
24 Superintendent that an overall system-wide reduction of thirty-percent (30%) is necessary,
25 taking into consideration projections and estimates made by the Water/Wastewater
26 Superintendent pertaining to the City's water supply. In order to achieve an overall system-
27 wide reduction of up to thirty-percent (30%), the following prohibitions shall be enacted:
28

1 (1) Any activities enacted during lower Shortage Levels.

2 (2) Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the
3 persons it serves to no more than two times per calendar week. Even numbered property
4 addresses may water on Mondays and Thursdays. Odd numbered property addresses
5 may water on Tuesdays and Fridays.
6

7 (3) Planting of any new landscaping, except for drought resistant landscaping shall
8 be curtailed until all Shortage Levels have been rescinded.

9 (d) **Shortage Level 4 – Mandatory Compliance – Significant Water Shortage.**

10 The City Council may, by resolution, declare a Shortage Level 4 upon recommendation
11 by the City Manager based on water supply and delivery projections by the
12 Water/Wastewater Superintendent that an overall system-wide reduction of forty-percent
13 (40%) is necessary, taking into consideration projections and estimates made by the
14 Water/Wastewater Superintendent pertaining to the City's water supply. In order to
15 achieve an overall system-wide reduction of forty-percent (40%), the following prohibitions
16 shall be enacted:
17

18 (1) Any activities enacted during lower Shortage Levels.

19 (2) The refilling or initial filling of any swimming pool is prohibited, unless required for
20 public health and safety purposes.
21

22 (3) Watering of any residential, commercial, industrial area lawn with potable water,
23 at any time day or night is prohibited. An exception will be made to permit drip irrigation
24 for established perennial plants, home- and commercial-orchards and trees using
25 automatic time-controlled water application.

26 (4) 'Will Serve' letters will not automatically be issued by the City. Projects may/or
27 may not be approved individually based upon overall impact to the City of Hemet water
28

1 supply requirements.

2 (4) Car washing is prohibited, unless using a commercial carwash that recycles
3 water.

4 (e) **Shortage Level 5 – Mandatory Compliance – Critical Water Shortage.** The
5 City Council may, by resolution, declare a Conservation Stage 5 upon recommendation
6 by the City Manager based on water supply and delivery projections by the
7 Water/Wastewater Superintendent that an overall system-wide reduction of up to fifty-
8 percent (50%) is necessary, taking into consideration projections and estimates made by
9 the Water/Wastewater Superintendent pertaining to the City's water supply. In order to
10 achieve an overall system-wide reduction of up to fifty-percent (50%), the following
11 prohibitions shall be enacted:
12

13 (1) Any activities prohibited during lower Shortage Levels.

14 (2) The use of potable water for construction activities and uses such as dust
15 suppression or process waters, however use of recycled water for construction activities
16 shall be exempt from this restriction.
17

18 (3) The filling of swimming pools, wading pools, spas, ornamental ponds, and
19 fountains.

20 (f) **Shortage Level 6 – Mandatory Compliance – Emergency Water Shortage.**
21 The City Council may, by resolution, declare a Conservation Stage 3 upon
22 recommendation by the City Manager based on water supply and delivery projections by
23 the Water/Wastewater Superintendent that an overall system-wide reduction of over fifty-
24 percent (50%) is necessary, taking into consideration projections and estimates made by
25 the Public Works Superintendent pertaining to the City's water supply. In order to achieve
26 an overall system-wide reduction of over fifty-percent (50%), the following activities shall
27
28

1 be enacted:

2 (1) Any activities prohibited during lower Shortage Levels.

3 (2) All landscape watering and non-essential outdoor water use for all customers.

4 (g) The City Council shall have the authority to prohibit other activities and water uses
5 upon the recommendation of the City Manager, Public Works Director or
6 Water/Wastewater Superintendent where that such additional measures are necessary in
7 order to achieve an overall system-wide reduction regarding each stage reduction of water
8 usage.
9

10 **SECTION 6 –Renumber Sections 82-137 through 82-140 to Sections 82-145**
11 **through 82-149 of Chapter 82, and authorize the City Attorney to make any**
12 **additional corrections regarding numbering as may be appropriate.**
13

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

INTRODUCED at the regular meeting of Hemet City Council on March 22, 2022.
APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of April, 2022.



Malcolm Lilienthal, Mayor

ATTEST:



John Paul Maier, City Clerk

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

State of California)
County of Riverside)
City of Hemet)

I, John Paul Maier, City Clerk of the City of Hemet, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance is the actual Ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Hemet and was passed at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 12th day of April, 2022

AYES: Council Members: Krupa, Brown, Males, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, Mayor Lilienthal
NOES: Council Members: None.
ABSTAIN: Council Members: None.
ABSENT: Council Members: None.



John Paul Maier, City Clerk