

Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District

Drought Procedures

Drought conditions will be determined based on the U.S. Drought Monitor, precipitation levels, surface water conditions, and well levels. The data for Saguache County will be used to determine the drought level impacting the District. <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>. Precipitation and snowpack conditions will be compared to the 20 year historical data using resources provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Streamflow for San Isabel, North Crestone, South Crestone, Willow, Spanish, and Cottonwood Creeks will be compared to 20-year historical data using the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) Stations system. The average of all six creeks will be used as the surface-water indicator: <https://dwr.state.co.us/tools/stations>. Static Well Water Levels will be compared to the previous four years of historical data.

The District will evaluate all four indicators monthly. With consideration given to these four factors, the District Manager, in their sole discretion, may change the drought level.

Drought Level 2 “Severe Drought” Once Drought Level 2 “Severe Drought” is reached the District will implement the following measures.

- Notices sent to customers stating severe drought conditions
 - Recommend maximum water conservation & reduce irrigation as much as possible
 - Water conservation tips: Indoor/Outdoor
 - Check all plumbing for leaks and repair if necessary
 - Use full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher
 - Install aerators on faucets to reduce flow, and use low-flow shower heads
 - Use automatic timers for outdoor watering
 - Water at night time to reduce evaporation
 - Used drip irrigation and soaker hoses instead of sprinklers
 - Add mulch around plants and trees to retain moisture
 - Choose native plants and drought-resistant landscaping techniques that require less water.
 - Report water waste when you see it happening

Drought level 3 “Extreme Drought” Once Drought Level 3 “Extreme Drought” is reached the District will implement the following measures.

Implement irrigation restrictions

- Residential Irrigation Restrictions:
 - Even number properties can only water on Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - Odd number properties on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
 - No watering on Sundays
 - Increase the fee for Tier 2 and above water
 - *Implement a 50% drought increase
 - Monitor high usage accounts – Monthly High Usage Reports
 - Send notices to high users requesting water conservation

- Commercial Irrigation Restrictions:
 - Limit commercial irrigation to 3x a week between hours of 9pm and 6am
 - This includes POA, including the golf course, parks, and Casita Park entrance. Townhouse Irrigation, Colorado College Irrigation.
 - Increase the fee for Tier 2 and above water
 - *Implement a 50% drought increase
 - *Implement a 50% drought increase to the Golf Course Irrigation
 - Monitor high usage accounts – Monthly High Usage Reports
 - Send notices to high users requesting water conservation

Drought Level 4 “Exceptional Drought” Once Drought Level 4 “Exceptional Drought” is reached the District will implement the following measures.

- Water use limited to indoor only
- No bulk water sales
- No commercial irrigation
 - POA – golf course, parks & Casita Park entrance
- Monitor high usage accounts – Monthly High Usage reports
 - Monitor for consistent (2 months +) high users
 - Fines up to \$50 per 1,000 gallons for Tier 2 water usage
 - Potential disconnection

Mobile Home Estates (MHE) Well

Use in drought conditions

All actions from the above scenarios will apply to MHE, with the addition of the actions outlined below.

Drought Level 2 “Severe Drought”

- Use will be limited to Mobile Home Estates, camper village and POA Buildings

Drought level 3 “Extreme Drought”

- 50% of demand will come from Well 17&18

Drought Level 4 “Exceptional Drought”

- Switch to Well 17 & 18 for 100% of demand
- MHE will only be used if necessary
 - If volumetric limit is reached at Well 17 & 18 and/or level of wells are to low