



Severe Drought Requires Restrictions on New Service Connections for Landscape Installations Using Potable Water

With reservoirs at historic lows, Marin Water's board of directors declared a Water Shortage Emergency and adopted various mandatory water use restrictions to help preserve our water supply.

The Board has also adopted *Potable Water Landscape Installation Restrictions for New Water Service Connections*. Adopted July 20, 2021, Ordinance 453 **prohibits new water service connections from using potable water for any new landscaping** (including fountains and ponds) until the current Water Shortage Emergency is cancelled.

How is the Ordinance Implemented?

The ordinance is implemented when Marin Water conducts a Landscape Plan Review as part of the application for a new water service connection. Landscape Plan Review is required for all new construction and rehabilitated landscape projects requiring a building permit, plan check, or design review. A rehabilitated landscape project refers to the re-landscaping of sites with an existing irrigation system (see back page for more details). Alternative, non-potable water supplies may be suitable for use on landscaping.



What is a New Water Service Connection?

A new water service connection is defined as a new, additional, expanded or increased-in-size potable water service connection, meter, or service line, applied-for as of July 21, 2021.



NEW WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS

What is Required for a New Water Service Connection to be Approved?

During the Water Shortage Emergency, applications for new water service connections will be approved only when the applicant provides in writing that:

- The proposed project does not include any new landscaping that will be irrigated using potable water, or;
- New landscaping to be irrigated with potable water will not be installed until after the termination of the Water Shortage Emergency.

What is the Updated Process for a New Water Service Connection?

- Upon initial receipt and review of submitted landscape plans, a conditional letter will be issued approving the plans.
- Marin Water will record a “Notice against the property” requiring a landscape plan review (this Notice will not affect a sale, refinance, or any other aspect of the property, and will be released after the final landscape plan inspection is complete).
- Marin Water will notify the applicant when the Water Shortage Emergency is lifted and installation of landscaping can

- be completed. Once installation is complete the applicant/owner shall notify Marin Water and schedule a final landscape plan inspection.
- Upon approval of the final inspection Marin Water will let the applicant’s local jurisdiction know of the approval and release the Notice.



REHABILITATED LANDSCAPES

What About Applications for Rehabilitated Landscapes?

Marin Water’s Ordinance 452 (adopted July 6, 2021) limits watering of existing landscaping:

- Overhead spray irrigation is limited to one day a week (each community has a designated watering day, see marinwater.org/waterrules)
- Drip irrigation is limited to two days per week

These irrigation restrictions apply to any new landscaping, including a rehabilitated landscaping project (re-landscaping sites with

an existing water meter). Marin Water strongly encourages that customers refrain from installing any new landscaping during the current drought conditions, as the irrigation restrictions may not provide the necessary amount of water for newly-planted landscapes to survive.

For a landscape rehabilitation project which requires a permit, plan check, or design review from the local jurisdiction:

- The applicant may choose to defer the landscaping project (recommended by Marin Water),

and later follow the Updated Process for a New Water Service Connection outlined above (Notice against property will not be filed).

- If the applicant chooses to continue with the project, they can follow the existing, pre-drought application process (marinwater.org/landscape-plan-review), and must strictly adhere to the mandated irrigation watering days. Water use regulations are subject to modification based on changing drought conditions, and applications must adhere to the then-current irrigation limitations.

MORE INFORMATION

Landscape Plan Review

marinwater.org/landscape-plan-review

Water Use Restrictions

marinwater.org/waterrules

Rebates and Programs to Help You Save Water

marinwater.org/rebates

Water-saving Gardening Resources

marinwater.org/gardening-resources



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