City of Gilroy
Water Conservation Efforts

The City of Gilroy is doing everything we can to ensure we can provide safe, clean water to our residents. In addition to following federal and state guidelines, we are taking additional measures to protect our water supply and conserve our precious resource. Therefore we have implemented a 1 day a week watering schedule during the months of November - March and a 2 day a week watering schedule during the months of April - October. (See below for specific days)

When a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage is declared, additional mandatory conservation measures are put into place, including more restrictive measures as well as violation fines. Upon a violation of one or more of the water supply conservation measures in Chapter 27 of the Gilroy City Code, Article VI, “Water Supply Shortage Regulations” the City will issue a written warning to the property owner and deliver a copy of the entire Ordinance by mail. The first violation warning is an opportunity to comply with all the city’s drought regulations to save water, and to avoid a fine in the future. Subsequent violations will result in fines with second violation fines equal to $100, third violation fines of $200, and additional violation fines of $500.

Many people reduced their water use significantly during the last drought. The City of Gilroy thanks you for your conservation efforts and we encourage everyone to keep up the good work. We offer conservation tips and programs that can help you save water and money, including Valley Water’s Landscape rebate Program. Community members who want to replace their high-water using landscapes with drought-resistant ones can now receive an increased rebate from Valley Water. To learn more about all their rebate programs, conservation tips and how to get free water-saving tools, please visit watersavings.org.
All Mandatory water saving measures that would apply during a declared Level 2 Water Supply Shortage (21 – 35% reduction) are shown below. The numbering system is the same used in the Gilroy City Code for easier reference. For the complete text Chapter 27, Article VI, No. 27.98, please see http://www.cityofgilroy.org

(c)(1) **Limits on Watering Hours**: Watering is prohibited with portable water between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, except by use of a **hand-held bucket or hose with positive shutoff**, and for adjusting or repairing an irrigation system.

(c)(2) **Limits on Watering Duration**: Watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape or other vegetated area with portable water using a landscape irrigation system or a watering device that is not continuously attended is limited to no more than fifteen (15) minutes watering per designated water day per station. **This subsection does not apply to landscape irrigation stations/valves/zones that exclusively use drip type irrigation systems, soaker hoses, bubblers, or high efficiency sprinkler nozzles that have a precipitation rate of less than one inch per hour. However, at no time can any irrigation system be operated long enough to cause runoff.**

(d)(1) **Limits on Watering Days**: During the months of **April - October**, watering days are limited to **2 days** per week (**EVEN addresses and no house address – Tuesday & Saturday; ODD addresses - Wednesday & Sunday**). During the months of **November - March**, watering is limited to **one day** per week (**EVEN Addresses - Saturday only; ODD Addresses - Sunday only**). Exceptions apply for very low flow irrigation systems.

(d)(2) **Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions**: All leaks, breaks, or other malfunctions in the water user’s plumbing or distribution system must be repaired within forty-eight (48) hours of notification by the city unless other arrangements are made with the city.

(d)(3) **Limits on Filling Ornamental Lakes or Ponds**: Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds with potable water is prohibited, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to declaration of a supply shortage level under this section.

M-0.20 **Limits on Washing Vehicles**: Using water to wash or clean a vehicle, including but not limited to any automobile, truck, van, bus, motorcycle, boat or trailer, whether motorized or not is prohibited, except by use of a hand-held bucket or similar container or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive self-closing water shut-off nozzle or device.

M-0.21 **No Washing Down Hard or Paved Surfaces**: Washing down hard or paved surfaces, including but not limited to buildings, structures, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or alleys, is prohibited.

M-0.22 **Recirculating Water Required for Water Fountains and Decorative Water Features**: Operating a water fountain or other decorative water feature that does not use recirculated water is prohibited.

M-0.23 **No Excessive Water Flow or Runoff**: The application of water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, driveway, street, alley, gutter, ditch, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.

M-0.31 **Pool Covers and Refilling of Existing Pools**: All new pools shall be required to have a pool cover or solar blankets to reduce the loss of water through evaporation. Refilling of existing private pools is prohibited, except to maintain water levels, unless the pool is in eminent danger of failure.