

SAVE WATER. SAVE CALIFORNIA.



**Water Supply Contingency Plan
for
City of Bishop**

377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514

Public Water System CA #1410001

Effective: April 14, 2023

Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

To meet state requirements intended to conserve the available potable water supply and protect the integrity of public water system (PWS) supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of potable water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the City of Bishop establishes the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of potable water through this Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan).

Section II: Public Education

The City of Bishop regularly provides the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage, including but not limited to the value of water, sources of water being used, methods and opportunities for conservation. Detailed information on public education is provided in Section IX of the Plan.

Section III: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of the City of Bishop is located within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin managed by the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA). The OVGA's water planning area assessment documents were considered in the development of the Plan. A copy of the final Plan was shared with OVGA and posted on our website on April 31, 2023.

Section IV: Authorization

The Director of Public Works, or designee, implements the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan. The contact information for the Director of Public Works is 760-873-8458 and via email at publicworks@cityofbishop.com.

Section V: Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and properties utilizing water provided by the City of Bishop. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan may include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

Section VI: Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and Institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as schools, hospitals, clinics, retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by City of Bishop.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools except as necessary to avoid damage to these pools such as by hydrostatic uplift;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;

- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting or hauling water for a domestic water use except when approved by the Director of Public Works.

Odd numbered address: street addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

Section VII: Summary of Drought Response Stages and Response Actions

The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a monthly basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

The triggering and termination criteria described in subsequent sections of this document are based on:

- Groundwater well elevations and/or well production capacities relative to system demands;
- Projected drought conditions on Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Water Watch Tool (<https://cww.water.ca.gov>)
- City, County, State, or Federal Drought Emergency Orders
- Emergencies such as fire and earthquake resulting in potential water outages
- The response actions described in subsequent sections of this document are based on the following general precepts:
 - In most cases the City of Bishop will address drought conditions through conservation. In more critical cases, source capacity may be increased by drilling of an additional well and/or a provision of hauled or bottled water.
 - Conservation techniques employed include progressively implementing more strict water use policies, primarily focused on outdoor irrigation and increasingly restrictive water use in business functions.
 - Notification of the public is performed in a variety of ways to ensure drought messaging is received by the residents. Depending on the severity of the drought stage, this may include messages on City of Bishop’s website, Facebook page, and local media outlets. Whenever possible, messages will be provided in English and Spanish.
 - City of Bishop will coordinate with a variety of agencies, including Inyo County, State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water, and Owens Valley Groundwater

Authority (OVGA). In the event of severe water shortages, City of Bishop will also coordinate with Inyo County to support County registered vulnerable persons, County Offices of Emergency Services (OES), CalWARN, community partners, and critical users.

Section VIII: Drought Response Triggers

The drought response triggers and terminations discussed below provide details on when varying levels of drought responses, further discussed in Section IX, will be implemented, and then subsequently terminated. The Director of Public Works may make modifications to the triggers and terminations depending on actual circumstances.

Stage 1 Triggers -- Water Shortage WATCH Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when wells show an average decrease of 10% in groundwater elevations (as measured by water depth in production wells) or available flow capacity, there is a projected lack of normal regional rain patterns, the DWR Water Watch drought map¹ shows moderate drought conditions in our zip code, or City of Bishop initiates voluntary conservation measures.

Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all well related conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days, or immediately when any other conditions cease to exist.

Stage 2 Triggers -- Water Shortage WARNING Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when groundwater well elevations show an average decrease of 20% in groundwater elevations or available flow capacity, City of Bishop initiates Stage 2 drought response measures, or the DWR Water Watch drought map¹ shows severe drought conditions in our zip code.

Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all well related conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days, or

¹ <https://cww.water.ca.gov/>

immediately when any other conditions cease to exist. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative unless otherwise specified.

Stage 3 Triggers – ACUTE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when groundwater well elevations show an average decrease of 30% in groundwater elevations or available flow capacity, City of Bishop initiates Stage 3 drought response measures, or DWR's California Water Watch drought maps shows extreme drought conditions in our zip code.

Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all well related conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days, or immediately when any other conditions cease to exist. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative unless otherwise specified.

Stage 4 Triggers -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when groundwater well elevations show an average decrease of 50% in groundwater elevations or available flow capacity, City of Bishop initiates Stage 4 drought response measures, or a County, State, or Federal Drought Emergency is declared.

Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all well related conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days, or immediately when any other conditions cease to exist. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative unless otherwise specified.

Stage 5 Triggers -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when groundwater well elevations show an average decrease of 60% in groundwater elevations or available flow capacity, or City of Bishop initiates recommends Stage 5 drought response measures.

Requirements for termination

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all well related conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days, or immediately when any other conditions cease to exist. Upon termination of Stage 5, Stage 4 becomes operative unless otherwise specified.

Stage 6 Triggers – CATASTROPHIC Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when groundwater well elevations show an average decrease of greater than 75% in groundwater elevations or available flow capacity, or City of Bishop initiates Stage 6 drought response measures. Triggers may also include earthquakes resulting in significant infrastructure damage, emergency conservation needed for fire protection, or other actual or threatened catastrophic water infrastructure failure as determined by the Director of Public Works, or designee.

Requirements for termination

Stage 6 of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist and coordination with the health and safety authorities have indicated that the water source and distribution system is safe. Upon termination of Stage 6, Stage 5 becomes operative unless otherwise specified.

Section IX: Drought Response Stages and Actions

The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VII of this Plan, shall determine if a water shortage condition exists and the severity of any such water shortage conditions (*1-Watch, 2-Warning, 3-Acute, 4-Critical, 5-Emergency, 6-Catastrophic Water Loss*), and shall implement the following notification procedures accordingly:

Notification

Description of Customer Notification Methods:

The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall notify the public by means of one of the following Methods:

- Method 1: Notice on City of Bishop website and social media outlets
- Method 2: Notice in Inyo Register
- Method 3: Notice emailed to other local media
- Method 4: Direct Mail to each customer, in bill or flyer format

Stage 4 and Above Levels –

- Method 5: Personal phone calls to hospital, elder care facility, and school district
- Method 6: Door to door outreach in low-income, elderly communities, County registered vulnerable residents, residences with high usage, and/or parts of the distribution system impacted by emergency
- Method 7: County Emergency Messaging text alert

Methods 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be provided in both English and Spanish.

Public Safety Contacts: The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall notify directly the following individuals and entities of restrictions and water shortages, as defined in the subsections below, as appropriate for each response stage.

Organization or Department	Name & Position	Telephone	Email
Bishop Fire Department	Joe Dell, Fire Chief	911 or 760-873-5485	jdell@cityofbishop.com
City of Bishop Departments	Deston Dishion, City Administrator	760-873-5863	rpicken@cityofbishop.com
Inyo County Administrator	Nathan Greenberg	760-878-0292	ngreenberg@inyocounty.us
Inyo County Environmental Health	Jerry Oser	760-878-0238	joser@inyocounty.us
CalWARN Contact	Region Chair Bassam Alzammar	909-370-6101	balzammar@coltonca.gov
State Water Board	Amanda Chapman Staff Engineer	909-383-4328	amanda.chapman@waterboards.ca.gov
Northern Inyo Hospital	vacant	760-873-5811	vacant
Bishop Unified School District	Katie Kolker, Superintendent	760-872-3680	kkolker@bishopschools.org
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Adam Perez Aqueduct Manager	760-873-0251	adam.perez@ladwp.com
Owens Valley Ground Water Authority	Karen Kong, City of Bishop Representative	760-878-0001	info@ovga.us

Drought Responses Actions:

In addition to the Drought Response Stages, City of Bishop has a continuously running rebate program to create water-efficient homes and landscapes, program highlights include:

- Sprinkler Rebates
- High-efficiency toilet, Dish Washer, and Washing Machine Rebates, up to \$100
- Automatic shut-off nozzles, hose timers, automatic sprinkler timers, up to \$100 or free

Details of our rebate program can be found on our website at http://cms9.revize.com/revize/bishopca/departments/public_works/water_conservation_program.php

Stage 1 Response -- Water Shortage WATCH Conditions

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- (a) City of Bishop will begin a special drought water loss audit to evaluate potential areas for limiting water loss.
- (b) Verify CalWARN membership is active and in good standing.
- (c) Decrease flushing from regular flushing routine to only as needed for colored water or other water quality issues.

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- (a) Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Even days of the month for customers even numbered addresses and Odd days of the month for water customers with odd numbered addresses, and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- (b) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes such as ornamental fountains, washing down of sidewalks or hard surface areas.
- (c) All restaurants are requested to serve water to patrons only upon request.
- (d) Water customers are requested to not irrigate during rain or within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- (e) Hotels/Motels are requested to provide guests the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily.

Notification Method(s):

Monthly bills, City of Bishop website, Facebook page, and local media outlets.

Stage 2 Response -- Water Shortage WARNING Conditions

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

In addition to the measures for Stage 1 conditions, the following will be implemented:

- (a) Using the results of the drought water loss audit perform leak detection surveys and perform needed repairs.
- (b) Decrease flushing from regular flushing routine to only as needed for colored water or other water quality issues.
- (c) Increase monitoring of groundwater elevations from monthly to weekly.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

In addition to the measures for Stage 1 conditions, the following will be implemented:

- (a) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station that utilizes internally recycled water. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
- (b) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to midnight or as necessary to protect from damage.
- (c) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life.
- (d) The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
 - i. washdown of any sidewalks, walkways, unless addressing a public health issue such as fecal waste removal, etc.;

- ii. washdown of driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- iii. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- iv. use of water for dust control;
- v. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
- vi. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

Notification Method(s):

Methods: 1, 2, 3, and 4 (via bill and separate conservation flyer). At least monthly outreach. Create website form for water wasting complaints to be filed. Develop complaint response program.

Agencies Contacted:

If less than 30-day time period between 10% and 20% decrease in water capacity or well elevation change, inform Inyo County and/or State Water Resources Control Board District Engineer of decreasing production and initiate feasibility evaluation for long-term mitigation strategies. Coordinate with OVGA to align potential future actions.

Stage 3 Response -- ACUTE Water Shortage Conditions

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

Using the results of the drought water loss audit perform leak detection surveys in areas with known water loss perform associated repairs.

- (a) Decrease flushing from regular flushing routine to only as needed for colored water or other water quality issues.
- (b) Prepare engineering designs, cost estimates and estimated schedule for long-term mitigation strategy of additional well at Well 3 site.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 with the following modifications:

- (a) The watering of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes recycled water.

- (b) Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare such as hauling water to domestic well residents.
- (c) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash and commercial service stations, that utilizes internally recycled water, or not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare is prohibited.
- (d) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.

Notification Method(s) and Frequency:

Methods: 1, 2, 3, and 4 at least monthly outreach.

Agencies Contacted:

Continue to collaborate with Inyo County and State Water Resources Control Board District Engineer on decreasing well production or water level elevations. Continue to work with OVGA to align potential future actions. Notify Bishop Fire Department and critical water users of the situation. Initiate planning for short-term alternative water scenarios and long-term mitigation strategies, such as well deepening or adding additional source capacity in coordination with other water suppliers in the Bishop area. Coordinate with Inyo County on well permitting requirements. Coordinate with Inyo County to consider needs of vulnerable persons registered with the County in the event drought conditions worsen.

Stage 4 Response -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- (a) Using the results of the drought water loss audit perform leak detection surveys in areas with water loss and perform needed repairs.
- (b) Decrease flushing from regular flushing routine to only as needed for colored water or other water quality issues.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

All requirements of Stage 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 with the following modifications:

- (a) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except as necessary to protect from damage. The only exception is for the City public swimming pool during the months of June, July and August.

- (b) The use of water for construction purposes to be discontinued.
- (c) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less.

Notification Method(s) and Frequency:

Methods: 1, 2, 3, and 4 at least weekly outreach through two or more methods.

Agencies Contacted:

Continue to collaborate with Inyo County or State Water Resources Control Board District Engineer on decreasing well production or water level elevations. Continue to work with OVGA to align potential future actions. Continue to reach out to Bishop Fire Department and critical water users of the situation so that they can continue planning for alternative water sources, if necessary. Continue coordinating with Inyo County to consider needs of vulnerable persons.

Stage 5 Response – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- (a) Using the results of the drought water loss audit perform leak detection surveys in areas with water loss and perform needed repairs.
- (b) Decrease flushing from regular flushing routine to only as needed.
- (c) Continue daily groundwater elevation measurements.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- (a) All outdoor irrigation is prohibited.
- (b) Swamp coolers are only permitted for use when temperatures exceed 85°F.

Notification Method(s) and Frequency:

Methods: 1, 2, 3, and 4 via bill and separate conservation flyer.

Agencies Contacted:

Weekly coordination and status updates to all agencies.

Stage 6 Response -- CATASTROPHIC Water Shortage Conditions

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

All requirements of Stage 5 shall remain in effect during Stage 6 and indoor conservation such as utilizing showers instead of baths, decreasing frequency of clothes washing and decreasing toilet flushing are further promoted in social media and other communications methods.

Notification Method(s) and Frequency:

Methods: 1, 2, 3, and 4 via utility bill and separate conservation flyer

Agencies Contacted:

Daily or weekly coordination and status updates to all agencies, depending on the severity of the issue.

CATASTROPHIC Notification of Emergency Service Providers

If adequate water supply will potentially become unavailable for fire response, medical services, and essential public services the following emergency providers will be notified as soon as possible to ensure that adequate planning, response and assistance may be provided:

Bishop Fire Department: Shall be contacted immediately when any water outages are believed to be potentially imminent or is occurring in any part of the distribution system.

Critical Service Providers: The hospital and school district shall be immediately contacted when any water outage is believed to be potentially imminent or is occurring in the distribution system that may in any way impact that user. These users should have backup plans for water provision that must be implemented immediately.

State Water Board: The State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water shall be contacted when any water outage is believed to be potentially imminent or is occurring in the distribution system.

Inyo County: Inyo County may be contacted when any water outage is believed to be potentially imminent or is occurring in the distribution system as the result of a natural disaster and/or additional County or State support is needed.

Section X: Enforcement

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from this water

system for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by Director of Public Works, or designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.

- (b) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the water system, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation.
- (c) Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person is in repeated violation of this Plan, the City of Bishop shall, after the second warning notice to the customer. Associated fines shall be set by the City Council.

Section XI: Variances

The Director of Public Works, or designee, may grant, in writing, a temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- (b) Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Plan shall file a petition for variance with the water system within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Director of Public Works, or designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.

- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.

A decision on the variance request will be returned to the customer within no more than 5 business days.

While submittal of a variance is required, the following exemptions are pre-approved:

1. Use of a residential swamp cooler on days where the ambient temperature is greater than 80° F for residents that can demonstrate a medical need.
2. Use of water for the operation of a medical support device needed by a resident.