



CITY OF MARTINEZ 2022 DROUGHT EMERGENCY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am a City water customer. Where does our water come from?

Residents are served with treated water by Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) or the City of Martinez Water District. The Martinez Water District receives untreated water from CCWD through a system of reservoirs and canals; treats and pumps water to our customers. The vast majority of our water source is from the Delta. The Delta water primarily comes from tidal action in the San Francisco Bay, and rain and snow runoff in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins. To avoid high salinity, CCWD pumps water at points in the delta when the San Francisco Bay salinity influence is minimal. This water is stored in Los Vaqueros Reservoir to provide the highest quality water available regardless of the time of year or salinity levels in the Delta.

What is a Drought Emergency, and what impact does it have on me?

California is in its third consecutive year of drought and despite precipitation early in the season in October and December, the first three months of 2022 have been extremely dry, with no significant relief in the forecast. Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 on March 28, 2022 calling on all Californians to increase efforts to use water efficiently and directed water agencies to implement a Drought Management Plan to reduce water usage by 15 percent.

How much do customers need to conserve?

The City must reduce water use 15% as compared to water use for the same billing period during 2020. The City is asking commercial and industrial customers to reduce by 5%; dedicated irrigation and agricultural customers by 25%; municipal retail customers by 15%; and residential and all other customer classes by 15%.

When will the City 15% Drought Management Plan go into effect?

The City is asking its customers to cut their use immediately. The City 15% Drought Management Plan will roll out in two steps beginning with the 15% reduction goal and prohibitions presented to City Council on March 18, 2022. It is expected all of the water use prohibitions will go into effect immediately. The new baseline and proposed fines and pricing adjustment will go through a 45-day notification and public review period with two City Council public hearings on July 6th and be in effect immediately if approved.

Why is 2020 used as the baseline?

The Governor's Executive Order requires water agencies use 2020 as the program baseline.

How can I find my 2020-water use?

This information will appear on the water bill.

Will there be a temporary pricing adjustment?

To encourage customers to meet the 15% reduction requirement, the City Council will consider temporary drought surcharge pricing adjustment of up to \$0.88 per unit (748 gallons) resulting from the Governor's Executive Order. Customers meeting the 15% reduction requirement will experience a reduction in the water bill compared to current billing levels, thereby incentivizing them to conserve. Residential customers using less than 200 gallons per day averaged over the billing cycle are considered to be efficiently using water based on district wide typical customer use and will be credited the pricing adjustment.

Will the City impose fines for not complying with the water use prohibitions?

Yes. If approved by the Council on July 6, 2022, Martinez would first issue a warning and work with customers to educate them about the prohibition and their violation. If after that, the customer continues to violate the prohibition, the City would issue a \$250 fine. At a second violation, the City would issue a \$500 fine. If the violation continues, the City may suspend the service or install a device to restrict the flow of water to the customer until the City determines there will be no further waste of water by the customer.

When do the temporary drought surcharge pricing adjustments start?

They won't start until City Council approves them on July 6, 2022.

My household uses under 200 gallons per day, do we have to save another 15% and will we be subject to the pricing adjustment?

Conserving another 15% is probably not realistic depending on how much you use outdoors, but in a statewide emergency we all have been called upon by the Governor to look for additional ways to save since every gallon counts. The pricing adjustment would only apply to customers/households that use over 200 gallons per day. While your household would not be subject to the adjusted unit cost, remember everyone must follow the water use prohibitions in place or be subject to a fine of up to \$500.

What about Excess Use Charges?

In 2009 the City implemented excess use charges of 4-times the usage charge for water used above allotments. Those charges are not proposed in the 2020 Drought Management Plan.

Will we have enough water?

The City and CCWD can meet conservation-minded demands through a combination of its Central Valley Project allocation, Los Vaqueros Reservoir storage, groundwater supply, recycled water and available water transfers. By targeting reductions in discretionary water use, the City and CCWD can manage overall water demands in order to preserve storage in Las Vaqueros Reservoir in the event of a continuing drought, while minimizing the impact on the economy within CCWD's service area which includes the Martinez Water District.