

City of Fowler

# Water Shortage Contingency Plan

July 2023



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**Report Prepared for:**

**City of Fowler**

128 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fowler, CA 93625

Public Water System No.: 1010006

**Contact:**

Public Works Director  
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Plan Effective Date: July 18, 2023

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# Abbreviations

City .....	City of Fowler
DDW .....	SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water
DWR .....	Department of Water Resources
FCOES .....	County of Fresno, Office of Emergency Services
GSP .....	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IRWM .....	Integrated Regional Water Management
KBWA .....	Kings Basin Water Authority
MWELO .....	Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
PWS .....	public water system
SKGSA .....	South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
SWRCB.....	State Water Resources Control Board
WSCP or Plan.....	Water Shortage Contingency Plan

# 1 Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

Senate Bill 552 requires small water suppliers serving 1,000 to 2,999 service connections to have a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP or Plan). This plan establishes requirements at the local level to help the City of Fowler (City) reduce the risk of inadequate water supply amid a water shortage event.

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of public water system (PWS) supply facilities, the City hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water through this plan. This Plan is prepared 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 water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this WSCP are considered to be non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water subjecting the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section 11 of the WSCP.

## 1.1 Water System Information

The City provides water to a community of approximately 7,000 residents, through metered residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial water services. The City obtains its water from six groundwater wells.

In 2022, the water system utilized 503.3 million gallons. The maximum monthly usage typically occurs in July with a production of 61.9 million gallons. Total well capacity is estimated to be 5,935 gpm.

# 2 Public Involvement

The WSCP was presented and adopted by resolution at a regular City Council meeting on July 18, 2023.

# 3 Public Education

The City will regularly provide the public with information about the WSCP, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the WSCP is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. Detailed information on public education is provided in Section 11 of the WSCP.

# 4 Coordination with Water Planning Groups

The service area of the City is located within the Kings Subbasin and is a member of the South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SKGSA) and the Kings Basin Water Authority (KBWA) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group. The SKGSA works cooperatively with other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within Kings Subbasin for water planning purposes. The SKGSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the Kings Basin IRWM Plan were considered in the development of the WSCP. A copy of the final WSCP was adopted and posted on our website on <https://fowlercivcity.org> for public and local agency stakeholder review and use.

## 5 Authorization

The City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of the WSCP upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The City Manager, or designee, shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this WSCP.

## 6 Application

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

## 7 Definitions

For the purposes of this WSCP, 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.*
- *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:*
  - *irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this WSCP;*
  - *personal use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle (not applicable to a commercial car wash);*
  - *use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;*
  - *use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection (not applicable to construction uses);*

- *flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street, except to comply with storm water pollution or dust control requirements during construction activities;*
- *use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;*
- *failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and*
- Odd numbered address: *street addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.*

## 8 Summary of Drought Response Stages and Response Actions

The City Manager, or designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a weekly basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the WSCP, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

The triggering and termination criteria described in subsequent sections of this document are based on one or more of the following:

- *Groundwater well production capacities relative to total well production capacity of the water system current at the time of triggering evaluation;*

*Groundwater level decline in greater amounts than anticipated in the SKGSA’s GSP;*

- *Projected drought conditions on Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Water Watch Tool (<https://cwww.water.ca.gov>);*
- *County, State or Federal Drought Emergency Orders; or*
- *Emergencies such as fire, earthquake, etc. resulting in potential water outages.*

The response actions described in subsequent sections of this document are based on the following general precepts:

- *Conservation techniques employed include progressively implementing stricter water use policies, primarily focused on outdoor irrigation and increasingly restrictive water use in business functions. In natural disaster type scenarios, water supplies are limited based on a per capita per day scenario.*
- *Public notification vehicles include notices via the City’s website, billing inserts, social media posts, and potentially house-to-house outreach depending on severity and immediacy of the water shortage occurrence.*
- *The City may coordinate with the County of Fresno, SKGSA, and the State Water Resource Control Board’s (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW), when necessary. In the event of severe water shortages, the City may also coordinate with County of Fresno, Offices of Emergency Services (FCOES), community partners and critical users.*



## 9 Drought Response Triggers

The following table describes the requirements for initiating and terminating each Stage.

**Table 9-1. Stage Initiation and Termination Triggers**

Stage	Stage Initiation Requirements (Triggers)			Stage Termination Requirements
	Well Production Capacity [1]	Average Groundwater Elevation	Drought Conditions [2]	
1: Watch	Decrease by up to 10%	Decline by up to 10%	Moderate	Each Stage may be terminated when all initiation triggers have ceased for 10 consecutive days.
2: Warning	Decrease by up to 20%	Decline by up to 20%	Severe	
3: Acute	Decrease by up to 30%	Decline by up to 30%	Extreme	
4: Critical	Decrease by up to 40%	Decline by up to 40%	State or Federal Drought Emergency Declared	Upon each Stage being terminated, the prior Stage is automatically initiated unless otherwise specified.
5: Emergency	Decrease by up to 50%	Decline by up to 50%		
6: Catastrophic [3]	Decrease by more than 50%	Decline by more than 50%		

Notes:

[1] The baseline well production is the normal, average water supply available from the City's wells. Causes of decrease include but are not limited to natural disasters, droughts, and contamination.

[2] Drought conditions as shown on the DWR California Water Watch drought maps

[3] Stage 6: Catastrophic triggers may also include earthquakes, fire emergencies, or other direct threat to water infrastructure resulting in a decrease of water supply by more than 50%.

## 10 Drought Response Stages

Demand reduction measures are strategies intended to decrease water demand to close the gap between supply and demand. The City will identify a variety of demand reductions actions to offset supply shortages. Demand reduction actions available to the City that may be considered during water shortage conditions are summarized in subsections below. Although it is difficult to estimate the volume of savings for each action, the City expects to meet required reductions through a combination of response actions in conjunction with outreach and communication efforts to the extent necessary to mitigate any impacts from a water shortage.

## 10.1 Notification

The City Manager, or designee, shall notify the public by means of one or more of the following methods:

- Method 1. Notification on the City website and social media*
- Method 2. Public notice in the Fresno Bee*
- Method 3. Notice on local English and Spanish-speaking radio stations*
- Method 4. Email to customer listing*
- Method 5. Direct mailing distributed in the next billing packet*
- Method 6. Phone call to critical water users*
- Method 7. Door to door notification, if immediate action is required*
- Method 8. County Emergency messaging text or bulletin alert, if necessary*

## 10.2 Public Safety Contacts

The City Manager, or designee, shall notify directly the following individuals and entities of restrictions or water shortages, as defined in the subsections below, as appropriate for each response stage.

**Table 10-1. Public Safety Contacts**

Organization or Department	Name & Title	Telephone	Email
Fresno County Fire	Dustin Hale, Fire Chief	(559) 493-4300	
City of Fowler	Wilma Tucker, City Manager	(559) 834-3113	<a href="mailto:wtucker@ci.fowler.ca.us">wtucker@ci.fowler.ca.us</a>
County Office of Emergency Services	Emergency Response Team	(559) 600-3271 (559) 600-3111	<a href="mailto:EnvironmentalHealth@fresnocountyca.gov">EnvironmentalHealth@fresnocountyca.gov</a>
State Water Resources Control Board	Sudarshan Poudyal, District Engineer	(559) 447-3038	<a href="mailto:Sudarshan.Poudyal@waterboards.ca.gov">Sudarshan.Poudyal@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Critical Water Users: Fowler Unified School District	District Staff	(559) 834-6080	<a href="mailto:fusdblackboard@fowler.k12.ca.us">fusdblackboard@fowler.k12.ca.us</a>
Critical Water Users: Dycora Transitional Health	Facility Director	(559) 834- 2542	
Critical Water Users: The Harvest at Fowler	Facility Director	(559) 834-5692	
South Kings GSA	Karnig Kazarian, Chairman of the Board	(559) 834-3113	<a href="mailto:kkazarian@ci.fowler.ca.us">kkazarian@ci.fowler.ca.us</a>

## 10.3 Support Services Contacts

The following is a list of support services that may be appropriate for a water shortage emergency.

Table 10-2. Support Services Contacts

Organization Department	or	Name & Position	Telephone	Email
Community Service Partner: Self-Help Enterprises, Inc.		Tami McVay, Director Emergency Services	(559) 802-1671	<a href="mailto:tamim@selfhelpenterprises.org">tamim@selfhelpenterprises.org</a>
Well Pump Technician		Gary Whisenhunt, Lead Water Operator	(559) 318-1598	<a href="mailto:aaranda@ci.fowler.ca.us">aaranda@ci.fowler.ca.us</a>
Well Drilling Company		Bob Herman, Drilling Manager	(559) 381-6438	bherman@zimindustries.com

## 10.4 Response Actions by Water Shortage Level

The first step in a demand reduction program is to prohibit wasteful practices and provide enforcement methods. The following section describes prohibitions and the water shortage level in which they may be enacted. The City Manager, or their designee, can elect to choose all or a portion of each measure, as they deem appropriate.

### 10.4.1 Level 1: Up to 10% Reduction of Normal Water Supply (Watch)

Stage 1 addresses water shortages of up to 10% reduction in water usage.

#### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Community information and notification campaign begins utilizing billing inserts.*
- *City staff will monitor groundwater well production capacity and notify City Manager of any decline.*
- *City staff will decrease flushing from regular flushing routine to and, only as-needed basis, for color or other water quality issues.*
- *Initiate a water loss audit, according to the process defined in the Water Code, to evaluate potential areas for limiting water loss.*

#### Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- *A public information campaign is enacted in which the water shortage situation is explained along with potential upcoming levels of the water shortage, and what may be expected in the future. Information about methods to save water is sent to customers along with the notice for voluntary conservation of water.*

#### Notification Methods and Frequency

- *Methods 1, 4, and 5 to be utilized on a monthly basis*

### 10.4.2 Level 2: Up to 20% Reduction of Normal Water Supply (Warning)

Stage 2 addresses water shortages of 10-20% reduction and requires a mandatory demand reduction effort. **All actions listed below are in addition to the previous stage unless a stricter restriction applies and is noted.**

#### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Community information and notification campaign continues, increasing to utilize social media posts.*
- *Increase groundwater level monitoring to weekly.*

#### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- *Enforcement of water waste continues and includes water use restriction compliance. City may use the enforcement measures discussed in Section 11 of this WSCP.*

#### Notification Methods and Frequency

- *Methods 1, 4, and 5 to be utilized on a monthly basis*
- *Develop online tool for water waste complaint filing and response program.*

### 10.4.3 Level 3: Up to 30% Reduction of Normal Water Supply (Acute)

Stage 3 addresses water shortage of 30% reduction and requires a mandatory demand reduction effort. **All actions listed below are in addition to the previous stage unless a stricter restriction applies and is noted.**

#### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Community information and notification campaign continues, increasing to utilize radio and newspaper announcements.*
- *Prepare analysis for mitigation of water supply loss if decline continues.*

#### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- *Dwellings or establishments with even-numbered street addresses shall water only on Wednesday and Sunday between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.*
- *Dwellings or establishments with odd-numbered street addresses shall water only on Tuesday and Saturday between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.*
- *Monday, Thursday, and Friday are non-watering days, unless a variance is approved.*
- *Water waste patrols will be expanded to ensure the above conservation measures are being enforced.*
- *Pool covers are encouraged.*
- *No new potable connections are allowed unless the developer can offset the new expected water use by a one-to-one water savings in existing development.*

#### Notification Methods and Frequency

- *Methods 1 through 6 to be utilized on a monthly basis*

#### 10.4.4 Level 4: Up to 40% Reduction of Normal Water Supply (Critical)

Stage 4 addresses water shortage of 40% reduction require a mandatory demand reduction effort. **All actions listed below are in addition to the previous stage unless a stricter restriction applies and is noted.**

##### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Community information and notification campaign continues utilizing all forms of notification available, including door-to-door efforts.*
- *Increase frequency and quantity of meter testing and repairs.*
- *Prepare engineering documents to construct improvements to mitigate water supply loss. Seek emergency funding to construct improvements.*

##### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- *For Level 4 and above implementation, a resolution that provides the specifics for a rationing program and additional water penalties must be adopted.*
- *A public information campaign will be implemented to communicate the significance of the measures to the public.*
- *Dwellings or establishments with even-numbered street addresses can water landscapes on Sunday only between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.*
- *Dwellings or establishments with odd-numbered street addresses can water landscapes on Saturday only between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.*
- *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are non-watering days, unless a variance is approved .*
- *No new water service connections are allowed except where required by State law or specifically authorized by City Council.*
- *No new building permits are issued for swimming pools.*

##### Notification Methods and Frequency

- *Methods 1 through 6 to be utilized on a monthly basis, as appropriate*

#### 10.4.5 Level 5: Up to 50% Reduction of Normal Water Supply (Emergency)

Stage 5 addresses water shortage of 50% reduction and requires a mandatory demand reduction effort. **All actions listed below are in addition to the previous stage unless a stricter restriction applies and is noted.**

##### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Upon securing funding, execute construction processes to construct improvements to mitigate water supply loss.*

##### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- *Dwellings or establishments with even-numbered addresses can use drip-irrigation systems or hand water edible crops, trees and large shrubs to minimally maintain their viability on Sunday only, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.*

- *Dwellings or establishments with odd-numbered addresses can use drip-irrigation systems or hand water edible crops, trees and large shrubs to minimally maintain their viability on Saturday only, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.*
- *All non-essential water use is prohibited.*

#### Notification Methods and Frequency

- *Methods 1 through 6 to be utilized on a monthly or weekly basis, as appropriate*
- *Methods 7 and 8 to be utilized as appropriate*

### 10.4.6 Level 6: Greater than 50% Reduction of Normal Water Supply (Catastrophic)

Stage 6 addresses water shortage of greater than 50% reduction and requires a mandatory system wide rationing. **All actions listed below are in addition to the previous stage unless a stricter restriction applies and is noted.**

#### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Water used data is frequently reviewed and users found exceeding 50% of their normal water use may have their water service interrupted and be subject to fines.*

#### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- *All outdoor applications of irrigation other than for trees and edible crops specifically for personal consumption shall be eliminated.*

#### Notification Methods and Frequency

- *Methods 1 through 6 to be utilized on a weekly basis, as appropriate*
- *Methods 7 and 8 to be utilized as appropriate*

## 10.5 Catastrophic Water Allocation Plan

In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to allocate water according to the following water allocation plan:

#### Single Family Residential Customers

The allocation to residential water customers residing in a single-family dwelling shall be as follows:

**Table 10-3. Single Family Residential Water Allocation Plan**

Persons per Household	Gallons per Month
1 or 2	1,410 – 2,820
3 or 4	4,230 – 5,640
5 or 6	7,050 – 8,460
7 or greater	Requires written verification of any household usage greater than 9,000 gallons per month. Allowable usage will be calculated using 47 gallons per person per day.

### Master-Metered Multi-Family Residential Customers

The allocation to residential water customers billed from a master meter which jointly measures water to multiple permanent residential dwelling units (*e.g., apartments, mobile homes, etc.*) shall be allocated at the same proportion as single-family residential customers.

### Commercial Customers

A monthly water allocation shall be established by the City Manager, or designee, for each non-residential, non-industrial commercial water customer who uses water for processing purposes. The allocation to nonresidential, non-industrial commercial water customers shall be as follows: 40% of monthly water usage and no irrigation. All restaurants shall only provide water upon request, hotels must only wash linens upon exit of customers, and all commercial customers must post drought conservation messaging.

### Industrial Customers

A monthly water allocation shall be established by the City Manager, or designee, for each industrial water customer who uses water for processing purposes.

## 10.6 Catastrophic Replacement Water Supply for Water Outages

In the event that water outages occur, the following is the plan to provide alternative water for customers to meet public health need.

Source of Alternative Water Supply:	<u>Bottled Water or Tanks/Hauled Water via Self-Help Enterprises and SWRCB Funded programs</u>
Distribution of Alternative Water Supply:	<u>Tanks or bottled water pickup locations will be established at locations in the City.</u>
Special Considerations for residents that are elderly, disabled, or lack transportation:	<u>Residents that meet these definitions may contact the City for delivery of bottled water to their home.</u>
Special Considerations for sanitation:	<u>Portable toilets and showers will be set up at the tank/bottled water locations. Toilets will be available all hours; showers will be available 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily.</u>
Public Notification Regarding Access to Alternative Water Supplies (multiple communication methods recommended):	<u>Public Notifications will occur via social media posts and radio announcements, in both English and Spanish, on multiple sites, including the City's website.</u>

## 10.7 Catastrophic Notification of Emergency Service Providers

If adequate water supply will potentially become unavailable for fire response, medical services, public services, etc. then emergency providers will be notified as soon as possible to ensure that adequate planning, response and assistance may be provided. Please see **Table 10-1** for emergency providers.

## 11 Enforcement

The City Manager, or designee, will be responsible for evaluating available data on a consistent basis and adequately determining the proper water shortage level, progress made on conservation efforts, and if the appropriate level of water consumption reduction is being met.

Section 10 above outlines the various water conservation measures during each water shortage level, as well as the various enforcements. The penalties for each level are also outlined in this section and can vary depending on the activated Water Shortage Level. Enforcement of various water conservation strategies is carried out by staff members of the water utility including water wastage patrols.

### 11.1 Penalties, Charges, Other Enforcement or Prohibitions

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 WSCP, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by the City Manager, or designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan. Per Article 14 of Chapter 4 of the City's Municipal Code, a violation of this WSCP is subject to the same enforcement proceedings and penalties as any other violation of the Municipal Code.

The City may, at its discretion, require the customer to repair any defects in their water system following second offense, and will perform a water loss audit on the customer's water system to determine repairs needed. The City may, at its discretion, terminate water service, following third offense in accordance with Article 11 of Chapter 4 of the City's Municipal Code.

## 12 Variances

Article 12 of Chapter 4 of the City's Municipal Code outlines the procedures for gaining a variance from this WSCP. This Article states that when any person, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion that any of the provisions of this WSCP is unjust or inequitable as applied to their premises, they may make a written application to the Council stating the special circumstances, citing the provision complained of, and requesting the suspension or modification of that provision as applied to their premises.

If such application is approved, the City Council, by resolution, may suspend or modify the provision complained of, as applied to such premises, to be effective as of the date of the application and continuing during the period of the special circumstances.



Additionally, the Council may initiate, on its own motion, a variance when it finds that by reason of special circumstances any provision of the WSCP should be suspended or modified as applied to a particular premises and, by resolution, may order such suspension or modification for such premises during the period of such special circumstances, or any part thereof.

Maximum practical reduction: No relief shall be granted to any customer for any reason in the absence of a showing by the customer that the customer has achieved the maximum practical reduction in water consumption in the customer's residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, or governmental water consumption, as applicable.