

### Section III. Declaration of Purpose and Intent

1. **To minimize or avoid the effect and hardship of potential shortages of potable water** to the greatest extent possible, this Ordinance establishes a Water Conservation & Water Supply Shortage Program designed to:
  - a. **Reduce potable water consumption** (demand) through conservation
  - b. **Enable effective potable water** supply planning
  - c. **Assure reasonable and beneficial use** of potable water
  - d. **Prevent waste of potable water** and maximize efficient use in the District
2. **The Ordinance establishes:**
  - a. **Permanent water conservation standards** designed to alter behaviors related to potable water-use efficiency during non-shortage conditions.
  - b. **Voluntary water conservation measures** designed to supplement permanent standards in the face of potential/planned water shortages.
  - c. **Three levels of potential response to escalating water supply shortages** which the South Coast Water District Board may choose to implement during times of declared water shortage or water emergency. The three levels of response consist of increasing water use restrictions as a result of worsening drought conditions, emergencies, and/or decreasing supplies.

### Section IV. Definitions

1. **General Definitions**
  - a. **"The District"** means South Coast Water District.
  - b. **"The Board"** means the South Coast Water District Board of Directors.
  - c. **"Person"** means any person or persons, corporation, public or private entity, governmental agency or institution, or any other user of water provided by the District.
  - d. **"Potable Water"** means water that is suitable for drinking.
  - e. **"Recycled Water"** means the reclamation and reuse of non-potable water and/or wastewater for beneficial use, such as irrigation. Also known as "Reclaimed Water."

- f. **“Water Waste”** refers to uses of water that are limited or prohibited under the Ordinance because they exceed necessary or intended use and could reasonably be prevented, such as runoff from outdoor watering.
- g. **“Billing Unit”** is equal to 100 cubic feet (1 CCF) of water, which is 748 gallons. Water use is measured in units of 100-cubic-feet and multiplied by applicable water usage rates for billing. Also known as a “Unit of Water.”
- h. **“Undue Hardship”** is a unique circumstance in which a requirement of the Ordinance would result in a disproportionate impact on a water user or property upon which water is used compared to the impact on water users generally or similar properties or classes of water use.
- i. **“Base water supply”** refers to the District’s average annual wholesale water purchases over the three-year period set by Metropolitan Water District for member agencies, i.e., 2004, 2005, 2006.

## 2. Irrigation-Related Definitions

- a. **“Automatic Shut-Off Nozzle”** refers to a water-efficient nozzle for use with residential or commercial hoses that must be pressed to start or stop the flow of water. Also known as a “Positive Self-Closing Shut-Off Nozzle.”
- b. **“Irrigation Controller”** is the part of an automated irrigation system that instructs the valves to open and close to start or stop the flow of water.
  - 1. **“Sensor-based irrigation controller”** operates based on input from a combination of sensors (rain, solar, soil moisture) installed in or around the landscaped area.
  - 2. **“Weather-based irrigation controller”** operates automatically based on evapo-transpiration rates and historic or real-time weather data.
- c. **“Irrigation System”** refers to a manual or automated watering system consisting of pipes, hoses, spray heads and/or sprinkler devices or valves. Also known as a “Landscape Irrigation System.”
- d. **“Minimal Irrigation Water Flow or Runoff”** is exceeded when water flows into the street **and** enters the nearest storm drain. Minimal levels of irrigation water flow or runoff would include water that tops the curb, flows into the gutter, but does not enter the storm drain.
- e. **“Positive Self-Closing Shut-Off Nozzle”** refers to a water-efficient nozzle for residential or commercial hoses that users must press or release to start or stop the flow of water. Also known as an “Automatic Shut-Off Nozzle.”

- f. **“Valves”** refer to the part of an irrigation system that opens and closes manually or electronically to start or stop the flow of water.

### 3. Other Definitions

- a. **“Pre-Rinse Kitchen Spray Valves”** refer to highly water-efficient sprayers that commercial kitchens use to rinse dishes in the sink before washing and for other preliminary cleaning purposes.
- b. **“Single-Pass Cooling System”** refers to an air conditioning, refrigeration or other cooling system that removes heat by transferring it to a supply of clean water and dumping the water down the drain – after a single use. This type of cooling system is extremely water-inefficient compared to systems that re-circulate the water.

## Section V. Application of Ordinance

1. **Ordinance provisions apply to any person or entity using potable water provided by the District.** This includes individuals, persons, corporations, public or private entities, governmental agencies or institutions, or any other users of District water.
2. **The provisions of the Ordinance may not apply to the following:**
  - a. **Water use necessary to protect public health and safety** or for essential government services, such as police, fire and similar services.
  - b. **Recycled water use for irrigation.**
    1. Use of recycled water requires a permit that has specific use restrictions, many of which focus on water efficiency.
    2. Given recycled water permit restrictions and interest in promoting recycled water as a means to preserve potable water, **recycled water is exempt from all requirements of this Ordinance.**
  - c. **Water used by commercial nurseries and growers** to sustain plants, trees, shrubs, crops or other vegetation intended for commercial sale.
3. **This Ordinance is intended solely to further the conservation of potable water.**
  - a. It is **not intended** to implement any provision of federal, state or local statutes, ordinances or regulations relating to protection of water quality or control of drainage or runoff.
  - b. Refer to the Regional Water Quality Control Board or local jurisdiction for information on storm water ordinances or management plans. Note: For local requirements regarding proper containment of water in the street, refer to local municipal codes.