



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Peggy Hawker
541.574.0613

**CITY OF NEWPORT
DECLARES A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY AND
ISSUES STAGE TWO WATER CURTAILMENT/RESTRICTIONS
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

The City of Newport Water Treatment Plant has been having difficulty meeting water demand, and the city has reached a point where it is necessary to declare a local emergency and enact water curtailment requirements. Earlier today, a temporary declaration of emergency was issued. A copy is attached.

The city has now issued Stage 2 Water Curtailment/Restrictions effective immediately. A Stage 2 water use curtailment/restriction is issued when unplanned maintenance/repairs or construction activities occur that significantly affect the water treatment plant or storage and distribution system operations in a short term manner.

This Stage 2 curtailment:

1. Requires a mandatory reduction in water consumption. Restrict irrigation of lawns, gardens, and landscaping to selected hours on specified days.
2. Prohibits outdoor washing of equipment, vehicles, pavement, or other facilities unless required for public health or safety.
3. Prohibits draining/filling pools and ponds except when aquatic life will be critically affected.
4. Requires the discontinuance of the operation of public-display fountains and waterfalls, and irrigation of public lands.

5. Discontinues scheduled flushing of water lines and firefighting drills involving water consumption.
6. Requires high-volume water consumers (e.g., restaurants, hotels/motels, recreation centers) to post notices about mandatory conservation measures; drinking water served to customers only upon request.

All residents and businesses are required to fully participate in curtailing water use pursuant to the provisions noted above.

The problem at the Water Treatment Plant is that the membrane filters are quickly plugging, cutting production from approximately 2600 gallons per minute down to 1600 gallons per minute. Water Treatment Plant personnel have been working with the manufacturer of the membrane filters, and have determined that the filter plugging is due to iron accumulation over time, which has finally reached the point where it is now causing production issues. The city's water distribution system is down to approximately one-half of the normal treated water storage. Without a curtailment in water demand, within two days, the city will not be able to provide water for fire protection in some areas and will lose the ability to provide water for some customers.

City staff is working with seafood processors to mitigate, to the extent possible, any financial impact on those businesses and the fishermen.

Public Works Director, Tim Gross, can respond to questions regarding the status of the Water Treatment Plant. He can be reached at t.gross@newportoregon.gov.

The City of Newport thanks its residents and businesses for working together to resolve this very serious situation.

#####