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**MEDIA RELEASE  
For Immediate Release**

**DATE:** June 28, 2021

**SUBJECT: Drought Declared in Lincoln County – Water Conservation Requested  
City of Newport – Alert Stage 1 Water Curtailment**

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**NMC 5.10.110 Water Use Restrictions** Monday, June 28, 2021, the City of Newport has issued Notice of an Alert Stage 1 – Water Curtailment.

On June 28, Lincoln County Commissioners declared a countywide drought and requested that Gov. Brown declare a Drought Emergency for Lincoln County. Siletz River as of June 28, 2021, is flowing at 56% of average for this time of year.<sup>1</sup> It is forecast to approach record daily minimums very shortly and regional forecasts show that drought conditions are likely to last throughout the summer. These conditions are putting stress on drinking water supplies, businesses, farms, forestry operations, and ecosystems, and increasing the risk of wildfire.

The Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium is urging water users in Lincoln County to voluntarily take actions now to conserve water. These efforts will help us stretch our water supplies further and reduce the need for restrictive water curtailment actions later. Recommended Alert Stage 1 water conservation actions include:

- Minimize irrigation of lawns and landscaping, and only water between 10:00 pm and 8:00 am.
- Avoid washing vehicles, except at commercial car washes that recycle or reuse water in the cleaning process.
- Refrain from filling pools and ponds, and turn off decorative fountains.
- Check for leaks in your irrigation system and plumbing fixtures around your home. If you find any, fix them promptly.
- Use water-efficient irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation and soaker hoses. If you water by hand, use a spray nozzle that you can shut off as you walk between plants.
- When irrigating, make sure the water is hitting your plants—not your driveway or street.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=SILO3>

- Set your lawnmower blades higher. Longer grass holds soil moisture better, reducing the amount of water needed.
- Sweep impervious surfaces, such as patios and driveways, instead of cleaning them with a hose.
- Install water-efficient faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full.
- Take showers instead of baths and minimize your shower time.
- When using the sink, turn off the water when you are not actively scrubbing or washing.

Lincoln County and local water providers will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as needed. If you have any questions, please contact your water provider. Contact information can be found on your water bill.

The Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium appreciates your support in taking these voluntary measures to reduce demand on our limited water supplies. The Consortium is a group of water providers on the Mid-Coast working together to promote water conservation, to improve resiliency to droughts and water supply emergencies, and to increase coordination among local water providers. Members include the Cities of Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo, Waldport, and Yachats, and Seal Rock Water District. For more information about the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium, please contact a member.

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