

CHAPTER 11 – CONSERVATION

11.1 Introduction.

Water efficiency is a critical component of the District’s comprehensive strategy for meeting current and future water needs of its customers. Water use regulations effectively reduce waste and fulfill regulatory requirements of the State of Nevada and the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

As a member agency of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the District collaborates with other regional water agencies to develop and support comprehensive water efficiency policies in support of the regional Water Resource Plan.

11.2 Water Waste Enforcement.

As a condition of service, customers of the District must use water delivered through the District’s system in a manner that promotes efficiency and avoids waste.

In the event of a conflict between the Service Rules and other applicable ordinances or regulations, the more stringent provision will prevail.

11.3 Water Waste Prohibited.

a. Water waste shall include:

1. Allowing water provided by the District to flow or spray off the property.
2. Failure to correct a malfunctioning device or supply line, where the customer or their agent has known of the problem for more than 48 hours.
3. Non-compliance with regulations regarding washing of vehicles, equipment, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, streets, or other surfaces or objects.
4. Discharging swimming pool or spa water drainage off the property where discharge into a public sanitary sewer is available.
5. Using spray irrigation (such as sprinklers) between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. from May 1st through August 31st each year.
6. Non-compliance with regulations relating to ornamental water features and misters.
7. Non-compliance with watering group assignments.

b. Violations.

Upon the first observation of waste, the customer will be notified and allowed a prescribed time period to take corrective action. Subsequent violations will result in a fee assessment. In addition, the District may exercise authority granted by any appropriate jurisdictions, including the issuance of misdemeanor citations.

The District has adopted specific administrative policies and procedures to support the Service Rules. These policies and procedures:

1. Specifically define water waste and exemptions;
2. Require observation and documentation of water waste by a representative of the District;

3. Require notification to the customer explaining the District’s policy prior to fee assessment;
4. May allow a customer to receive additional time to pursue corrective action;
5. Provide a mechanism by which a customer may protest the fee assessment;

c. Administrative Fees.

Customers issued a violation notice as defined by the District shall be assessed a fee according to the listed schedule. Violation levels shall be based upon violation history for the preceding 18 months. Administrative fees are assessed in accordance with Appendix I A.21.

11.4 Exemptions

The following exemptions shall apply.

Activity Type	Exempt from Time of Day?	Exempt from Assigned Day?	Exempt from Spray or Flow off property?
Watering with hand-held hose	Yes	Yes	No
Using Non-Spray Irrigation (such as low-volume, drip irrigation)	Yes	Yes, but not to exceed maximum number of days per week	No
Watering newly established landscape, including overseeding (1)	Yes, for up to 30 days	Yes, for up to 30 days	No
Irrigation of Commercial Nursery Stock	Yes	Yes	No
Supervised testing of irrigation systems	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water budgeted facilities	Yes	Yes	No
Activities necessary for public health, safety, or welfare	Yes	Yes	Yes
Residential Car Washing with bucket and shut-off nozzle	Yes	Yes	Yes, for not more than 5 minutes

¹A customer must contact the District prior to change in irrigation schedule. Must be in compliance with all applicable codes and conservation restrictions. Exemption limited to one 30-day period per calendar year.

11.5 Compliance with Water Efficiency and Conservation Codes.

All customers of the District must comply with applicable water efficiency and landscape codes. The District may reject the application for, rescind, or terminate water service to any property or use determined to be in violation of applicable codes or standards which are intended to conserve or protect water resources.

11.6 Conservation Restrictions.

a. Irrigation Restrictions for Properties not Subject to Water Budgets.

Watering days or schedules will be assigned and communicated to each customer by the District.

1. From May 1st through August 31st of each calendar year, it is water waste to spray irrigate outdoor vegetation between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
2. It is water waste to irrigate outdoor vegetation on days outside of the assigned schedule for the property.

Season	Watering Schedule
Winter November – February	One Assigned Day Per Week
Spring March – April	3 Assigned Days per Week
Summer May - August	Any Day except Sunday
Fall September - October	3 Assigned Days per Week

3. Community Use Recreational Turf Area (CURTA).

Public or private areas designated as CURTA by government jurisdictions shall comply with the following restrictions:

- a. During the spring and fall a watering schedule for each area may not exceed seven days out of 14 days and the schedule must be posted at each location.
- b. During the winter a watering schedule for each area may not exceed two days out of seven days and the schedule must be posted at each location.
- c. Irrigation shall be eligible to commence no earlier than 9:00 p.m. the day prior to the designated day.
- d. The District may require areas designated as CURTA to submit an irrigation schedule to the District for the current season (Spring, Winter, Fall) within 30 days

of the designation. Irrigation schedules for subsequent seasons must be submitted 30 days prior to the next season.

Government bodies may approve an alternative to landscape watering restrictions on a specific CURTA, and under such circumstances the District shall defer enforcement of provisions 3.a. and 3.b.

b. Water Budgeted Golf Courses.

Any golf course using District supplied water shall be on a water budget and shall be exempt from time of day and assigned watering day provisions. A golf course on a water budget shall be allocated 6.3 acre feet of SNWA member agency water (including potable, raw, reuse, and non-potable) for each irrigated acre, per calendar year. The irrigated acreage will include lakes and ponds existing within a golf course.

The District, in consultation with the customer, shall determine the irrigated acreage of the golf course. In the event a golf course customer contests the calculated irrigated acreage as determined by the District, the golf course may provide calculations supported by other methods acceptable to the District. The District shall make the final determination of irrigated acreage. Once measured, the irrigated acreage shall remain fixed. If a golf course expands its course by increasing the number of playing holes, a new irrigated acreage will be determined.

Water used within the budgeted amount shall be billed according to the rate schedule. Water used in excess of the budget will be assessed a surcharge based upon the schedule below.

Percentage of budget	101 to 120 percent	121 to 140 percent	Over 140 percent
Surcharge to apply to water use in excess of budget.	2.0 times the highest non-potable rate.	5.0 times the highest non-potable rate.	9.0 times the highest non-potable rate.

c. Mist System Restrictions.

Residential mist systems used for human comfort are not restricted. However, commercial use is allowed only under the following conditions:

1. From May 1st through August 31st and,
2. Between noon and midnight

d. Water Feature Conditions and Exemptions.

Water features may not be operated, but will not be required to be drained. A re-circulating water pool may be maintained to sustain pumps, pond liners, surface coatings, and ancillary equipment. A water feature may be operated only between 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., or whenever freezing conditions require system preservation. This shall include the use of District water that has been recycled or reprocessed by the customer.

Where not inconsistent or in conflict with the governing provisions of another governmental entity having authority over water features, the following uses are exempt from the operational restrictions stated above:

1. Residential.

A water feature of 25 square feet or less of surface area at a single-family residence or centrally located within a residential development is exempt.

2. Non-Residential.

A water feature as approved by the governing entity, including any conditions or requirements established by the governing entity.

3. Swimming pools and recreational water parks, both public and private.

4. Water features that are necessary and functional components serving other allowable uses (e.g., storage ponds on a golf course, or aeration devices).

5. Indoor water features or features with the majority of the total water volume contained indoors or contained within a closed vessel. If practical alternatives exist for separating indoor and outdoor components, they shall be separated and managed accordingly.

6. Fountains and water features at resorts as defined by the governing jurisdiction.

7. Fountains or water features necessary to sustain aquatic animals provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature.

8. Fountains and water features supplied by privately owned water rights, unless restricted by the code of the applicable jurisdiction.

e. Other Outdoor Water Use Restrictions.

1. Surface, Building, and Equipment Washing (excluding motor vehicles).

Surface, building, and equipment washing is prohibited, unless the water is discharged to a sanitary sewer through approved methods, or contained on site.

2. Personal Vehicle Washing

Washing of personal vehicles upon residential properties is limited to once per week, per vehicle and requires a positive shut-off nozzle on the garden hose.

3. Commercial Vehicle Washing.

Commercial vehicles may only be washed at a commercial facility where water is discharged to the sanitary sewer through approved methods or, with the use of a high-pressure, low volume sprayer using less than ten gallons per vehicle. There is no limitation on frequency.

f. Manmade Lake Provisions.

Man-made lakes with over one acre of surface area shall pay the same rate as metered construction water. Lakes that serve, in whole or part, as a functional reservoir for a golf course are included in the calculation of a golf course water budget.

g. Governmental Facility Provisions.

1. Government facilities shall be subject to landscape water restrictions.
2. Government facilities shall be subject to District water rates and water waste fees.

11.7 Water Budgets.

In addition to, or in lieu of, any provisions of this Chapter, the District reserves the right to assign specific water budgets to customers, and the right to prescribe rates or surcharges for varying levels of use related to the budget. The District shall provide written notification to each individual water budgeted customer of the amount of water provided for the budget and associated provisions. Where a water budgeted customer is served by more than one SNWA member agency, the District may collaborate with any of those member agencies for purposes of administering the water budget. The District may assign water budgets for any specified period of time and may prorate the amount of water at its discretion. If conditions at a property change so that an alteration in the water budget may be merited, the District may reconsider the budget. Water budgeted customers are exempt from time and day, assigned day, and watering frequency restrictions described elsewhere in this Chapter.