



## **City of Ceres Water Conservation Program**

The City of Ceres continues to be committed to water conservation and our residents; making every effort to efficiently utilize our produced water supply while providing our residents with the most current water saving technology and equipment. As we enter into another dry year we must make the needed adjustments to conserve such a vital natural resource with limited and fluctuating supplies. Across the state and in our city water users have diverse needs and goals; using this water wisely will help us fill the needs of our residents, businesses, farms, and aquatic life.

Many factors impact water availability including drought, climate change, temperature, snow pack, population growth, and economic expansion. California utilizes both surface and underground water to sustain our water needs. Although, this is all part of the same system surface and groundwater is generally considered two different entities with different legal systems regulating surface and groundwater in California. This decentralized management could lead to an irreparable “groundwater overdraft,” which occurs when water is released faster than it is replaced through absorption. Groundwater overdraft can especially happen during drought conditions because there is insufficient surface water available. This can cause water quality issues, land to sink due to a collapse of the basin, and seawater intrusion in coastal aquifers. Groundwater extraction in excess of natural and managed recharge has caused historically-low groundwater elevations in many regions of California.

The City of Ceres depends solely on groundwater extraction supplied from 15 active wells located throughout the City to fill the needs of our residents and economic growth. During an average year, California’s groundwater basins and sub basins contribute nearly 40% towards the states total water supply. In dry years, that number is increased to nearly 50% of the statewide annual supply.

As a City we have made great progress in reducing our gallons per capita, however there is more work to be done. To meet new and emerging water restrictions the City of Ceres has gone to Stage II of our Drought Preparedness Plan. This includes a reduced outdoor watering schedule, please note the current year around watering schedule below and adjust your watering times.

### Year around Watering Schedule

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>No watering is allowed between 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Odd Addresses</b>	<b>NO WATERING DAY</b>		<b>Odd Addresses</b>	<b>NO WATERING DAY</b>	<b>NO WATERING DAY</b>	<b>Even Addresses</b>
<b>Odd</b> addresses end in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 <b>Even</b> addresses end in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8							

### Waivers

In addition, due to the severe drought conditions, the City will only allow water waivers for the following reasons:

Health / Safety: California health and Safety Code.

Livelihood: Businesses that depend on water usage such as painters, pool contractors, irrigation contractors.

Irrigation: Check system, installation and maintenance.

**Note:** If you are planning to install new Sod the City will not grant a waiver to water daily, please plan accordingly.

### Rebates

As a City, we are pleased to offer our resident's five different rebates that include: energy efficient dishwashers, smart irrigation controllers, low flow toilets, turf replacement, and high efficiency washing machines to help reduce both your water usage and monthly utility bills.

#### Dishwasher:

A dishwasher built before 1994 wastes more than 10 gallons of water per cycle. A new, energy efficient dishwasher will save, on average 1,600 gallons of water over its lifetime. By replacing an inefficient dishwasher with an Energy Star model that uses 4.25 gallons or less per cycle for standard modes and 3.50 gallons per cycle for compact models will use about one-third less water than older models. The City currently offers a dishwasher rebate for \$75 dollar.

### **Smart Irrigation Controller:**

Residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for nearly 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. It is estimated that as much as 50% of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. Replacing a standard clock timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can save an average home nearly 8,800 gallons of water annually. Install a smart irrigation model that displays the WaterSense label, and modifies the irrigation schedule based on evapotranspiration (ET) principles to receive a \$50 dollar rebate.

### **Toilet:**

Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for nearly 30% of an average home's indoor water consumption. Replace an inefficient toilet with a WaterSense model that uses 1.6 gallon per flush or less can save 4,000 gallons of water per year. The City currently offers a toilet rebate for \$75 dollar.

### **Turf Replacement:**

Replace your thirsty lawn with water-efficient landscape to reduce your outdoor water usage. By beautifying your landscape through the turf removal program you will not only save on your water bill but the time and money you spend maintaining the lawn. The incentive rebate is \$1.00 per square foot with a maximum rebate for residential accounts set at 500 square feet and 1,000 square feet for non-residential accounts. Please read the program terms and conditions to fully understand the program eligibility and rules. Once we receive your application we will call to schedule an appointment for a "Pre-Qualification Inspection" to verify the square footage. Please do not start your project before you have received an approval number, proceeding with a project prior to receiving authorization will make your conversion **ineligible for a rebate.**



### **Washing Machine:**

Recent estimates of potential water and energy savings provided by new high efficiency washing machines provide a 23% savings for water and 36% savings for energy. By replacing an inefficient washing machine with an Energy Star model that uses 4.5 gallons or less of water per cubic foot of space you could potentially reduce your annual water use up to 5,000 gallons per year. The City currently offers a washing machine rebate for \$75 dollar.

## **The City of Ceres Water Meter Portal**

As a resident we offer a free water meter portal that will allow you to login with your account number and a secure password to view your water usage data. The portal is a live database that is updated daily with the previous day's usage. Once you are in the portal you can monitor your own water usage and determine if you need to cut back on water consumption. From the portal you can look at your data hourly, daily, weekly, by month, annually and a side by side comparison of different time frames. The portal will also notify you if your meter is registering a leak by email or in the form of a text message.

## **Home Audits**

Due to the severity of the current drought, the City of Ceres has implemented water usage targets and a fine structure should your property go over your set target. This is one of several programs approved by council members to help the City meet state mandated reduction goals. For the Ceres Water Conservation Program to efficiently determine the water needs of our resident's property, we are offering free water audits. The current default for a family of four is as follows:

- 12,000 gallons a month for January and February.
- 22,000 gallons for the month of March.
- 27,000 gallons each month April thru September.
- 22,000 gallons for the month of October.
- 12,000 gallons each month November thru December.

If you feel you cannot meet these targets due to square footage of property, number of residents in the home, or have a pool on your property, please contact the Public Works Office at (209) 538-5732 to schedule an appointment. The results from your water audit will allow us to modify your water usage targets. However, no changes will be made to your targets without a completed water audit.

## **Classroom Presentations**

The City of Ceres offers free classroom presentations to the Ceres Unified School District on topics that cover water conservation and the importance of every day actions to conserve water. To request a presentation for your classroom please call the City of Ceres Water Division at (209) 538-5688.



## **Conservation Facts**

### **Did you know?**

- The average Californian uses 196 gallons of water per day and leads the nation in water use and land irrigation.
- 60% of the human body is composed of water.
- The earth surface is covered with 75% of water but 97% is saltwater leaving only 3% available for fresh water. Out of that 3% only 1% is available since the other 2% are locked in ice caps and glaciers.
- A person can survive a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
- Each person needs to drink about 2 ½ quarts (80 ounces) of water every day.
- Approximately 1 million miles of pipelines and aqueducts carry water in the U.S. and Canada. That's enough pipes to circle the earth 40 times.
- About 800,000 water wells are drilled each year in the United States for domestic, farming, commercial and water testing purposes.
- One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons or nearly 30 tons of water on a 60' by 180' piece of land.

### **Indoor water saving tips:**

- 75% of all water used indoor is in the bathroom and 28% of that usage is accounted for by toilets.
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving can save 10 gallons of water per person per day.
- Take five minute showers instead of ten minute showers to save 12.5 gallons of water with a water efficient showerhead.
- Run dishwasher only with a full load of dishes to save 5 to 15 gallons per load.
- Wash only full loads in the washing machine to save 15 to 45 gallons per load.
- Fill the bathtub halfway full or less to save 12 gallons per person.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting food coloring or dye tablets in your toilet tank and waiting 10 to 15 minutes. If without flushing, the color appears in the



bowl you have a leak. Fix leaky toilets to save 30 to 50 gallons of water per day per toilet.

- Sign up for a leak notification using the Water Meter Portal. Once signed up, the portal will automatically generate an e-mail or text message to you to indicate a leak has been registered.
- Check faucets and pipes for a leak. A small drip can waste 20 gallons of water per day and 2,400 gallons per year.
- Do not use the toilet for an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush the toilet 5 to 7 gallons of water is wasted depending on the model of your toilet.
- Put a float booster in your tank, this will cut down on the amount of water needed to fill the tank.
- Insulate your above ground water pipes. It's easy and inexpensive; you'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats.

#### Outdoor water saving tips:



- Plant drought resistant lawns, shrubs and plants. The City currently offers a Turf Replacement rebate, please see rebate guidelines.
- Use a broom to clean outdoor areas to save 8 to 18 gallons of water per minute.
- Check your clocks to make sure you are watering on your watering days. Adjust Sprinklers to water plants and lawn, not driveway to save 12 to 15 gallons of water each time you water.
- Water lawns and plants during the morning hours, or evening when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation.
- Use mulch on soil surface saves 20 to 30 gallons of water per 1,000 square foot each time.
- Install a "Smart" irrigation controller to save 24 gallons of water per day. The City currently offers a \$75 dollar rebate!
- Install a drip irrigation to save 15 gallons of water every time you water.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it. A good way to see if your lawn needs water is to step on the grass. If it springs back when you move, it does not need water. If it stays flat, the lawn is ready for watering. Most lawns need about 1" of water per week.