

ORDINANCE NO 88-16

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST ADOPTING WATER
CONSERVATION MEASURES.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST ORDAINS as follows:

Section 1. Purpose

This ordinance adopts water conservation measures to protect the water supplies for the region. The measures described below are temporary. If the current lack of water replenishment continues or worsens, the City may react to the drought by enacting more stringent measures. If the current water supply improves, the City may adopt permanent water conservation measures based upon experience gained under this ordinance.

Section 2. Voluntary Measures

(a) Water users are encouraged to use the voluntary measures in order to achieve an overall ten (10) percent reduction in current usage.

(b) Landscape irrigation shall be reduced by using, to the extent possible:

- (1) Low water usage plants;
- (2) Use of ground cover and shrubs in lieu of turf area;
- (3) Low precipitation heads to minimize overspray;
- (4) Irrigation system maintenance programs; and
- (5) Surround high runoff areas with borders, flower beds and similar devices to capture and reuse runoff.

(c) Water users may reduce the amount of water used to water lawns by:

- (1) Periodically aerating the soil;
- (2) Using highly efficient irrigation equipment;
- (3) Placing irrigation equipment and regulating flow to avoid overspray on impervious surfaces;
- (4) Promptly repair all leaks;

(5) Properly maintain sprinkling devices; and

(6) Avoid overwatering by irrigation at more frequent intervals from shorter periods of time.

(d) Vehicles should be washed at a commercial car wash, which recycles water, or using a water bucket and hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle for quick rinsing.

(e) Water should be recycled and reused whenever possible.

(f) The City shall advise the Indian Wells Valley Water District prior to high usage activities such as sewer system flushing and shall cooperate with the District to reduce the demand on the District's water system to the extent feasible.

Section 3. Mandatory Measures

(a) No water user shall waste water. For the purposes of this ordinance, "waste" means using water for no beneficial purpose including, but not limited to:

(1) Landscape irrigation in a manner or to an extent which allows water to runoff the area being irrigated;

(2) Using water to wash or rinse sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts or other exterior paved areas except to dispose of flammable or dangerous liquids.

(3) Allowing water to leak through water connections, hoses, faucets, pipes, outlets or plumbing fixtures.

(b) Landscape shall not be irrigated from May 1 through September 30 except between the hours of 8:00 o'clock p.m. and 8:00 o'clock a.m. unless a special permit is issued for an appropriate period of time to accommodate newly planted material.

(c) No water shall be provided to any structure which is hereafter constructed or remodeled in which the plumbing fixtures are to be installed unless the plumbing fixtures conform will all requirements of law as to flow capacity.

(d) Landscaped areas for all new property development, other than single family residences, shall include as part of its development, low water use or native plant material, low precipitation sprinkler heads, bubblers, drip irrigation systems and timing devices, and shall be designed to avoid water loss to the extent practicable.

Section 4. Penalties.

Each day's violation of this ordinance is a separate offense. Violation of this ordinance is an infraction punishable by a civil

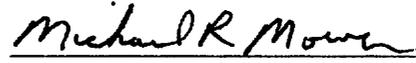
fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first violation, \$250.00 for the second violation within one year and \$500.00 for each subsequent violation within the same year.

Section 5. Urgency

This ordinance is an urgency ordinance necessary for the preservation of health, welfare and safety in that the region is experiencing a lack of replenishment to the water supply. The immediate adoption of this ordinance is necessary because water supply depletion is most critical during summer months.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of July, 1988 by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Mower, Councilmembers Condos, Corlett, and Lilly.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Bergens



Michael R. Mower, Mayor

ATTEST:



Joyce M. Taft, City Clerk