



The Town of Highlands Declares Stage 2 Mandatory Water Reductions

Due to the prolonged drought conditions and the lack of measurable rainfall in the extended forecast, effective November 7, 2023, the Town of Highlands has declared a Stage 2 Mandatory Water Reduction. According to the Town of Highlands Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP), Stage 2 is triggered when Big Creek drops below 1400 gpm flowing over the weir.

In Stage 2, Mandatory Reductions I and II, all customers are expected to reduce their water use by 10% in comparison to their previous month's water bill. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: irrigation is limited to a half inch per week between 8 PM and 8 AM; outdoor use of drinking water for washing impervious surfaces is prohibited; and all testing and training purposes requiring drinking water (e.g. fire protection) will be limited.

Customers are encouraged to wash only full loads in clothes washers and dishwashers; do not leave faucets running while shaving or rinsing dishes; refrain from filling swimming or wading pools; use spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identify and repair all water leaks.

Penalties.

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by the Town of Highlands utility department and police personnel.

- (a) Any violation of the provisions of this division shall constitute a misdemeanor.
- (b) Any violation of this provisions of this division shall also and independently subject the offender to a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50) per violation, pursuant to G.S. section 160A-175.

Any future updates to the conditions of the water reduction declaration will be provided to the media and posted on the Town's website at highlandsc.org.