



Best Practices – Drought Irrigation Restriction Management

Revised 8-31-2022

Background:

On July 21, we were informed by IRWD that our HOA must comply with the California State “Second Water Conservation Emergency Regulation of 2022 (May/June 2022)”.

In short, we must immediately stop irrigating non-functional turf (ornamental-only turf) with potable water. We must also make appropriate irrigation changes to protect our trees from drought damage.

On July 28, 2022, the SPCA BOD directed the Landscape Committee to work with IRWD and Harvest Landscape to comply with the state mandate, and to keep the Board apprised of the actions being taken, the progress being made, and any concerns. Great Scott Tree Care is advising us on irrigation adjustments to support the continued health of our trees.

Drought Irrigation Management Zones:

- Exempt Areas
 - Areas irrigated with reclaimed water (not potable water).
 - Sombra Park (across from the Clubhouse) and a small portion of the Paseo Sombra Street Trees.
 - Trabuco from Paseo Sombra to the church.
 - Trabuco from Paseo Tranquilo to Via del Rio
 - Sendero Channel (between Trabuco and Calle Sendero)
 - Non-turf areas
 - All embankments and other areas devoid of turf
 - Recreational turf areas
 - Center oval turf area in Abeto Park
 - Erosion control turf (This turf exemption is being debated.)
 - Most of Cipres Channel, except elevated areas
 - Much of the Main Green Belt, except elevated areas. All of the area near the Clubhouse
- Areas that Must Comply
 - Areas that are clearly ornamental turf per the State’s definition
 - Elevated turf areas in Cipres Channel
 - Elevated turf areas in Main Greenbelt
 - Non-recreational turf areas in Abeto Park.
 - The turf around the pool area
 - All parkways containing turf. Includes cal-de-sac parkways irrigated by the HOA.

Best Practices documents serve as the Serrano Park Community Association reference standards for projects, area management, specifications, and procedural guides. They serve as the interpretation of industry standards as they apply to Serrano Park Community shared property.

Drought Management Actions

- Exempt Zones
 - Continue to irrigate normally.
- Zones that Must Comply
 - Discontinue irrigating these areas.
- Zones that Must Comply that also contain trees
 - These zones have trees planted in turf. The trees have been irrigated as grass since they were first planted and will have shallow roots that frequently mound the ground, creating runoff. Creating a deep watering plan is not easy as tree size, roots and current grass height will affect the plan. Monitor ground moisture at root depth 1 day after watering and adjust appropriately.
 - Deep watering technique:
 - Run sprinklers for 20 minutes per scheduled day.
 - In high runoff areas such as parkways, start with 5 minutes, 4 times spaced 30 minutes, for a total of 20 minutes. Adjust timing to minimize runoff.
 - Turn off sprinkler heads that do not irrigate under trees within these zones.
 - Deep watering schedule:
 - Different tree types have different irrigation requirements. Each of these irrigation zones is adjusted for the primary tree types in that zone. *If the zone is programmed for proper irrigation of the tree types while ignoring the turf, it is expected that the irrigation controller will properly manage the zone schedule.*
 - Drought tolerant trees: (Eucalyptus, pines, oaks, sycamore) (Trees native to areas with dry summers.)
 - During summer, schedule 1 day every month.
 - During winter, schedule 1 day every month. Skip if more than ¾” rain falls since last scheduled day.
 - Non-drought tolerant trees: (Most tree species, including pepper trees)
 - During summer, schedule 1 day every 2 weeks.
 - During winter, schedule 1 day per month. Skip if more than 1.5” rain falls since last scheduled day.
 - This Drought Irrigation Restriction Management Policy is a general guide. Tree irrigation cycles may need adjusting to keep the trees healthy.

References:

California State Water Conservation Portal: (Contains all related State Documents)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/emergency_regulation.html

IRWD Commercial Landscape Restrictions:

<https://www.irwd.com/save-water-money/commercial-landscape-restrictions>

IRWD State-adopted watering restrictions in place for some commercial customers:

<https://www.irwd.com/save-water-money/drought>

Consulting advice and policy review:

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