

**Water Shortage Response Plan Ordinance**  
**South Granville Water And Sewer Authority, North Carolina**  
**Originally Adopted January 8, 2008**  
**Modified This August 10, 2010**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF THE SOUTH GRANVILLE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY (SGWASA), NORTH CAROLINA

The SGWASA Board of Granville County, North Carolina, doth ordain the adoption of this ordinance which shall read as follows:

This ordinance shall rescind and supersede the SGWASA Water Shortage Ordinance adopted January 8, 2008.

The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand and supplement existing drinking water supplies whenever existing water supply sources are inadequate to meet current demands for potable water.

I. Authorization

The SGWASA Executive Director shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his or her absence, the Utility Director will assume this role.

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II. Notification

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and customers of a water shortage declaration: employee e-mail announcements, notices at municipal buildings, notices in water bills and on the SGWASA website homepage ([www.sgwasa.org](http://www.sgwasa.org)). Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through PSA announcements on local radio and cable stations and on the SGWASA website. Declaration of emergency water restrictions or water rationing will be communicated to all customers by telephone.

III. Levels of Response

Five levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The five levels of water shortage response are: voluntary reductions, mandatory reductions I

and II, emergency reductions and water rationing. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follow below.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Voluntary Reductions	Water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and improve water use efficiency; however, no penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions indicate a potential for shortage.
2	Mandatory Reductions I	Water users must abide required water use reduction and efficiency measures; penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist.
3	Mandatory Reductions II	Same as in Stage 2
4	Emergency Reductions	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity.
5	Water Rationing	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allocated to preserve human health and environmental integrity.

In Stage 1, Voluntary Reductions, all water users will be asked to reduce their normal water use by 5%. Customer education and outreach programs will encourage water conservation and efficiency measures including: irrigating landscapes a maximum of one inch per week; preventing water waste, runoff and watering impervious surfaces; watering plants deeply to encourage root growth; washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers; using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identifying and repairing all water leaks.

In Stage 2, Mandatory Reductions I, 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 8PM and 8AM; 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.

In Stage 3, Mandatory Reductions II, customers must continue actions from all previous stages and further reduce water use by 20% compared to their previous month's water bill. All non-essential uses of drinking water are banned and garden and landscape irrigation must be reduced to the minimum amount necessary for survival. Additionally, in Stage 3, a drought surcharge of 1.5 times the normal water rate applies.

In Stage 4, Emergency Reductions, customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water use by 25% compared to their previous month’s water bill. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is implemented and drought surcharges increase to 2 times the normal water rate.

The goal of Stage 5, Water Rationing, is to provide drinking water to protect public health (e.g. residences, residential health care facilities and correctional facilities). In Stage 5, all customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection. Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use and pickup locations for distributing potable water will be announced according to South Granville WSA’s Emergency Response Plan. Drought surcharges increase to 5 times the normal water rate.

**IV. Triggers**

The SGWASA’s water source is RD Holt reservoir. The following measurements of usable storage and intake levels trigger entry into corresponding water restriction stages.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Usable Storage</b>	<b>Water Level</b>
1	< 60%	76 inches below full
2	< 50%	129 inches below full
3	< 40%	155 inches below full
4	< 30%	186 inches below full
5	< 0%	Water Below Top of Lower Intake

**Return to Normal**

When water shortage conditions have abated and the situation is returning to normal, water conservation measures employed during each phase should be decreased in reverse order of implementation. Permanent measures directed toward long-term monitoring and conservation should be implemented or continued so that the community will be in a better position to prevent shortages and respond to recurring water shortage conditions.

**V. Enforcement**

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by SGWASA personnel. Violators may be reported to SGWASA’s main office or any e-mail contact listed on SGWASA’s website. Civil Penalties shall be assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

<b>Water Shortage Level</b>	<b>First Violation</b>	<b>Second Violation</b>	<b>Third Violation</b>
Voluntary Reductions (Stage 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mandatory Reductions (Stages 2 and 3)	Warning	\$250	Discontinuation of Service
Emergency Reductions (Stage 4)	\$250	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service
Water Rationing (Stage 5)	\$500	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service

Drought surcharge rates are effective in Stages 3, 4 and 5.

Each violation shall subject the offender to a civil penalty as set out above to be recovered by SGWASA in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within 30 days after the offender has been cited for violation of this Ordinance. Any person assessed a civil penalty under this Ordinance by SGWASA shall be notified of the assessment by registered or certified mail, and the notice shall specify the reasons for the assessment of the civil penalty. If the person assessed fails to pay the amount of the assessment to SGWASA within 30 days after receipt of such notice, SGWASA may institute a civil action in the General Court of Justice of Granville County to recover the amount of the assessment. The validity of SGWASA's action in assessing the violator may be appealed directly to the General Court of Justice of Granville County, or may be raised at any time in the action to recover the assessment. No failure to contest directly the validity of the authority's action in levying the assessment shall preclude the person assessed from later raising the issue of validity in any action to collect the assessment.

In addition, the provisions of this Ordinance may be enforced by any appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction. In such cases, the General Court of Justice shall have jurisdiction and authority to issue such orders as may be appropriate to enforce the ordinances of the authority, and it shall not be a defense to the application made by the authority therefor that there is an adequate remedy at law.

The provisions of this Ordinance may be enforced by any one, all or a combination of the remedies authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. §162A-9.1..

Each day's continuing violation shall constitute and be a separate and distinct offense. Multiple offenses may be aggregated for the purposes of collection in the nature of a debt.

VI. Public Comment

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment on the provisions of the water shortage response plan. First, a draft plan will be on file with the SGWASA Clerk for customers to view. A draft plan will be published on the SGWASA website. Also in accordance with G. 162A – 6 (a) (14c), the SGWASA Board will pass an intent to adopt in open session and then allow its represented agencies 60 days to comment on this ordinance and any future modifications. The Board is authorized to adopt this ordinance or any modification of this ordinance 60 days after passing the intent to adopt.

#### VII. Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the SGWASA website and the SGWASA Office. All applications must be submitted to the SGWASA Office for review by the Executive Director or his or her designee. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within two weeks of submittal after careful consideration of the following criteria: impact on water demand, expected duration, alternative source options, social and economic importance, purpose (i.e. necessary use of drinking water) and the prevention of structural damage.

#### VIII. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the SGWASA water shortage response plan ordinance will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total number of violation citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's seasonal data.

#### IX. Revision

The water shortage response plan ordinance will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances affecting water supply and demand, following implementation of emergency restrictions, and at a minimum of every five years in conjunction with the updating of our Local Water Supply Plan. Further, a water shortage response planning work group will review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to recommend any necessary improvements to the plan to SGWASA Board. The SGWASA Executive Director is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.

This ordinance adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010.



Ron Alligood, Chairman



Terry Bullock, Clerk