

SV Water Restrictions Imposed

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Water use restrictions were imposed in Scotts Valley Monday night.

The north county city has now joined the City of Santa Cruz and the upper San Lorenzo Valley in banning the washing of exteriors of homes and

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mobile trailers, and restricting the washing of vehicles and the watering of lawns and gardens.

"I never thought I'd see the day that Scotts Valley would come to this," Chairman Howard Norton said as his board passed the water use ordinance that carries penalties up to \$100 a day fines for violators.

District Manager Jack Hinds reminded the board that Scotts Valley came to that condition over the past weekend when the Scotts Valley County Water District tanks nearly ran dry.

Hinds said he is keeping a reserve of 350,000 gallons on hand at all times to "fight fires" and that the reserve can be delivered to any part of the district within eight minutes.

The Scotts Valley ordinance is patterned after the City of Santa Cruz ordinance approved May 25.

The Scotts Valley board voted 4-1 to impose it with Director Don Santos dissenting.

Hinds said that the Santa Cruz City ordinance was only proving "50 per cent effective for what it must do," but that it was the only way he could see to help solve Scotts Valley's water shortage problem.

He said that something had to be done to bring water use down to the 700,000 gallons per day the district can generate from its wells.

Hinds pointed out that on June 4, the rate of use climbed to nearly 870,000 gallons and that on June 8 it reached 1.2 million gallons and the storage tanks began to run dry.

On Sunday, other than for the 350,000 fire reserve, the tanks emptied and Hinds began turning off the water to blocks of 200 customers for one hour intervals.

A number of residents at the Monday night meeting told the board that the water in the Hacienda Way area had been

off for extended periods beginning last Thursday and that even now when there is water in the lines "It's not fit to drink."

Hinds admitted that the low water levels and shortages had resulted in dirty water in the lines.

The ordinance allows the washing of cars from small buckets and allows each residence owner to water his lawn and garden two days a week any hours from 9 at night to 8 in the morning.

The schedule for watering is that persons with even numbered street addresses are allowed to turn on hoses and sprinklers on Mondays and Thursdays.

Odd numbered street address residents get Tuesdays and Fridays.

Former Scotts Valley City Manager Duane Smith, who is now the director of the Local Agency Formation Commission, spoke as a resident of the city and asked the board to consider a ban on new connections for the duration of the water shortage.

The board replied that a connection ban was a separate item of business and indicated it would look at the ban at a later meeting.

Norton said that water use had more than doubled in a period when "no more than 20 new connections had been added," and Hinds said that only two new single family annexations had been accepted by the district in "about the last year's time." The ordinance makes it unlawful to allow water leaks to continue and empowers the district manager to cut off water to homes and businesses that do not comply with all provisions of the ordinance after being warned and-or cited.

The water personnel given the power to cite are Hinds, the district engineer, the district foreman and the night man on duty.

Excluded from restriction in the emergency ordinance is the filling of swimming pools, however the board attorney indicated this morning the board may meet again quickly to discuss that omission.

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SUMMER SHOE SALE