



Summer 2022



Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Drought

**But were afraid to ask*



As everyone is aware, California and much of the Southwest is in the midst of a historic drought. But California is a large state with different areas facing various levels of impact. Each water agency responds differently to reflect the needs of their customers, which can be confusing at times.

To help you better understand the drought, we are dedicating this issue to providing a look at the current situation, the actions Kinneloa Irrigation District (KID) is taking, and how we can help preserve our water supply.

First, let's look at our climate. California historically alternates between wet and dry periods. Due to below-average rainfall since

December 2021, the National Weather Service shows local rainfall almost 25 percent below average since July 2021.

Following a record-setting dry period from January through March this year, reservoirs across the state are below historic averages. Summer typically does not bring many storms, and with the snowpack in Northern California at only 16 percent of normal for June, water levels are expected to drop even further in the coming months.

One immediate way to deal with limited supplies is by reducing demand through water conservation. Last year, Governor Gavin Newsom called on all Californians to cut water use by 15 percent compared to non-drought years. Instead, water use fell by only 4 percent. Since this voluntary goal was not met, the State Water Resources Control Board required most water agencies to enact measures to reduce water usage by 20 percent. Our District is not required by law or regulation to follow the mandatory water limitations due to the small size of our service area and our water supply source.



Some area agencies that receive imported supplies from Northern California face even greater restrictions. Fortunately, Kinneloa Irrigation District relies entirely on groundwater for our supply. Two wells and five tunnels, also known as horizontal wells, meet the needs of our customers.

While the District does not import water from outside sources, we recognize the importance of conserving water to sustain these supplies now and for future generations.



Teaming Up to Protect Our Water Supply

Many of you are already taking steps to reduce water use, and we thank you for your efforts. But we need your cooperation to conserve even more. To help all customers use water more efficiently, we've adopted new rules to better preserve our scarce water resources.

While the KID is not subject to the state's mandatory water conservation order, we are intent on doing our part to align with other nearby local water agencies in managing resources during this drought. To this end, the Board of Directors voted on June 21, 2022, to move to a Code Orange Rationing Conservation Alert. As approximately 85% of total water usage by KID customers is for outside purposes (e.g., landscape irrigation), the focus is there.

At this level, customers are *required* to minimize indoor water use and significantly curb outdoor water use as follows:

- Outdoor irrigation is limited to two days per week.
- The filling of pools, spas and decorative fountains is prohibited, except to maintain water levels.
- Vehicles may only be washed if using a bucket or hose with a self-shutoff nozzle.
- Customers must repair leaks within 48 hours of discovery or notification from the District.



The above restrictions are in addition to existing conservation requirements, which include:

- Outdoor irrigation is allowed only between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. to reduce evaporation.
- Hosing down hard surfaces outdoors is not allowed except when necessary for health or safety reasons.
- Sprinklers may not overspray or cause excessive runoff on streets, driveways or other hard surfaces.
- Irrigation is prohibited on windy and rainy days.

These measures are similar to restrictions imposed by other water providers that are members of the Foothill Municipal Water District. By working together and taking these steps to conserve water, we can protect our water supply for years to come.



Understanding Water Conservation Alert Levels

Here in California, conservation is a way of life. During droughts or other times when water supplies may be stressed, additional measures may be required. Kinneloa Irrigation District has a Water Conservation Alert System to provide customers with clear guidance on the severity of a drought and the steps that need to be taken.

Each code level includes restrictions from the previous level, in addition to the measures listed. We are currently under a Code Orange Rationing Conservation Alert, which includes steps to substantially cut back outdoor water use.

Here is a guide to all alerts, which feature colors for easy reference.

- Code **"Blue"** is defined as the **Normal Water Conservation Alert**. Standard water conservation applies.
- Code **"Green"** is defined as an **Increased Voluntary Conservation Alert**. Customers must follow strict water conservation practices indoors and limit outdoor water use.
- Code **"Yellow"** is defined as an **Extraordinary Conservation Alert**. Outdoor watering is limited to three non-consecutive days per week, between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.
- Code **"Orange"** is defined as a **Rationing Conservation Alert**. This is the current level. Customers are required to minimize indoor water use and severely limit outdoor water use.
- Code **"Red"** is defined as a **Critical Water Conservation Alert**, when water supplies are only available for health and safety needs. Customers are required to minimize indoor water use, stop all outdoor water use and fix leaks within 24 hours.



New Tools Will Help Customers Conserve

Kinneloa Irrigation District's conversion to smart water meters will soon offer new opportunities to conserve water and save money.



The District is in the process of adding new technology as it replaces older meters. The new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system will reduce costs, increase efficiency and reduce pollution, as the meters can be read remotely instead of requiring staff to drive by each home and business.

One of the most significant benefits is real-time information about water use. Once the system is in place this fall, customers will be able to monitor water use online and receive alerts about potential water leaks and custom recommendations to conserve water. The information will be accessible from anywhere with an internet connection.

Installation of the new meters will be completed by the end of July. Stay tuned for more information on how to sign up and learn more about your water use this Fall.



The More You Know, The More You Can Save

Did you know for the average household in Southern California, more than half of all water is used outside the home? Limiting outdoor watering provides a quick and simple opportunity to reduce water use significantly. And there are plenty of other changes you can make to conserve water indoors and out.



Getting started is easy! Visit KinneloaIrrigationDistrict.info and look on the Resources page for conservation tips, videos and details about rebates on water-saving devices.



Help us to better serve you!

Here at Kinneloa Irrigation District, we pride ourselves on delivering high-quality water and excellent customer service. Your questions and feedback are welcome! Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Call us at 626-797-6295 or send an email to customerservice@kinneloirrigationdistrict.info. District staff are available 24/7 in the event of an emergency. Call 626-797-6295 and press "0" to be connected to our answering service. Additional information on the Kinneloa Irrigation District and your water service is available on our website at <https://www.kinneloirrigationdistrict.info>. To receive important information and alert notifications via text on your mobile phone: Opt-In: text *ALERT* to 22300; Opt-Out: text *STOP* to 22300; For Help: text *HELP* to 22300 (Message and data rates may apply.) To receive this newsletter and other non-emergency information via email contact us at customerservice@kinneloirrigationdistrict.info. AUTOMATIC PAYMENT: Sign-up for e-debit direct deduction and your payment will always be on time. Go to: <https://www.kinneloirrigationdistrict.info/my-account> for an application. CREDIT CARD PAYMENT: Available online only at the above address. COURTESY PAYMENT DROP BOXES: Three locations as shown on payment stub. PAPERLESS EMAIL BILLING: Contact our office at (626) 797-6295 or email customerservice@outlook.com.