

**INSTRUCTIONAL ORDER**

August 2017

Immediately

**V.5:29**

Distribution: All Employees

Subject: **WATER CONSERVATION VIOLATIONS**

Index as:       Restrictions, Water Use       Water Use Restrictions

Accreditation Standards:

Cross Reference:       §373.044, §373.113, §373.175, §373.246, and §373.609, F.S.S.  
F.A.C. ch 40D-21, et seq.  
Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)  
Declaration of Water shortage, Order No. 92-12, as amended September 15, 2003  
Modification of Restrictions, Order No. 92-21 and 92-60, as amended September 15, 2003  
City of St. Petersburg Ordinance Section 27-41 through Section 27-47

Replaces:           I.O. V.5:29, Water Conservation Violations\_Interim Change Memo (April 29, 2013)

This Order consists of the following sections:

- I. Purpose
- II. Definitions
- III. Water Conservation Restrictions
- IV. Reclaimed Water Use
- V. Enforcement of Water Conservation Violations

**I. PURPOSE**

A. This Order establishes procedures with which to handle complaints pertaining to violations of water conservation restrictions, as set forth by SWFWMD and the City of St. Petersburg.

B. Private wells are classified as a water resource and are included in the usage controls declared by **Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)**.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

A. Even Numbered Address – Means the street address ending in the numbers 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 or the letters A - M.

B. Low Volume Hand Watering – Means the low volume irrigation of plants or crops with one hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle, attended by one person. This definition includes drip irrigation and soaker hoses. Low volume hand watering is not permitted for lawns, except on designated days during permitted hours.

C. Low Volume Mobile Equipment Washing – Means the washing of mobile equipment with a “bucket” and “sponge” or a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

D. Low Volume Pressure Cleaning – Means pressure cleaning by means of equipment which is specifically designed to reduce the inflow volume as accepted by industry standards.

E. Mobile Equipment – Means any public, private or commercial automobile, truck, trailer, railroad car, camper, boat, or any other type of similar equipment. The term shall not include sanitation and sludge vehicles or food vending and transporting vehicles.

F. Odd Numbered Address – Means the street address ending in the numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 or the letters N - Z.

G. Verti-cutting (Vertical Mowing) – The process of mechanically removing thatch build up in a lawn.

### III. WATER CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS

A. For the City of St. Petersburg, Water Restrictions see Attachment A.

B. General requirements for year-round water conservation measures (SWFWMD Chapter 40-D-22).

1. Wasteful and unnecessary:

- a. Allowing water to flow from an unattended hose.
- b. Hand-watering a lawn on an otherwise restricted day or more than once a day.
- c. Hosing-down a driveway or other impervious surface to remove grass clippings or other debris that can be removed with a broom or other dry method.
- d. Hosing-down a building or other structure to remove cobwebs or other material that can be removed with a broom or other dry method.
- e. Allowing water to flow from a broken sprinkler head, outdoor faucet, or other malfunctioning plumbing or irrigation system component after receiving verbal or written notice of the malfunction.

C. Water conservation restrictions (City of St. Petersburg City Ordinance Section 27-46).

1. Irrigation of established lawns and landscaping using potable water (drinking water), private wells, or private connections with surface water bodies:

- a. Irrigation of established lawns shall be permitted only on the designated days between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- b. Irrigation of established lawns and landscaping is permitted:
  - 1) At addresses ending in an EVEN number, or the letters A through M, only on Tuesday and Saturday.
  - 2) At addresses ending in an ODD number, or the letters N through Z, only on Wednesday and Sunday.
- c. Exceptions:
  - 1) Irrigation using treated wastewater effluent (reclaimed water) is not restricted, except when conditions warrant.
  - 2) Low volume hand-watering of landscaping (excluding lawns) shall not be restricted, except for the general restrictions.
  - 3) Irrigation of new lawns and plant materials is permitted for the first thirty (30) days after planting or installation; however, irrigation shall not be permitted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. New plantings must be fifty (50) percent of the area or more to qualify for the thirty (30) consecutive-day watering. If the area is less than fifty (50) percent, only that area that is new may be watered for the thirty (30) days.
  - 4) Irrigation systems may be operated during restricted hours for cleaning and maintenance. Each zone may be tested once a week with an attendant on site.
  - 5) Watering-in of pesticides and fertilizers, where recommended by the manufacturer or by law, shall not be restricted by day of the week. This shall be within the permitted hours.
  - 6) Irrigation after verti-cutting shall be permitted once a day, during allowable hours, for up to two weeks after verti-cutting.

2. Industrial and Commercial Use:

- a. Clean-up requiring water use shall be reduced to the minimum required to protect the efficiency of the operation and prevent damage to the equipment.
- b. Washing of vehicles is allowed only with an automatic shutoff device.

3. Miscellaneous Use:

- a. Washing or cleaning streets, driveways, sidewalks, or other impervious areas with water shall be prohibited, except to meet federal, state, or local health or safety standards.
- b. Outside pressure cleaning shall be restricted to only low volume methods.

- c. Recreation area use of water shall be reduced to the maximum extent practicable.
- d. SWFWMD did not include specific restrictions on the filling or refilling of pools. The filling or refilling of pools is permitted.

4. Other Restrictions:

- a. There are other restrictions set forth in SWFWMD orders pertaining to:
  - 1) Domestic and other sanitary uses;
  - 2) Essential service use;
  - 3) Industrial and commercial use;
  - 4) Power generation;
  - 5) Irrigation use, including golf courses, and
  - 6) Livestock use.
- b. Questions pertaining to potential violations or other information can be obtained from the St. Petersburg Water Resources Department at their 24-hour telephone number: 893-7261.

D. Property owners may apply for a variance, for any or all of the water use restrictions, through the Water Resources Department (City Ord. Sec.27-47).

1. Lists of those having a variance are updated daily by the Water Resources Department and forwarded to the Police Department's Emergency Communications Center.

2. Variances can be verified through the Emergency Communications Center's information channel (Foxtrot).

#### IV. RECLAIMED WATER USE

A. The City of St Petersburg has an extensive system providing reclaimed water to portions of the City. Irrigation using treated wastewater effluent (reclaimed water) is not restricted. However, the Mayor has the authority to restrict the use of reclaimed water when conditions warrant, as provided in City Ord. Sec. 27-47.

B. The Water Resources Department has marked the curb of properties where reclaimed water is available and/or in use.

1. A 6" x 2" brown stripe indicates reclaimed water is available to the property.

2. A 6" x 2" yellow stripe indicates the property is actually connected to the reclaimed water distribution system. (Users will have both brown and yellow stripes.)

3. The stripe system is being replaced by 3" metal lavender color discs, glued to the curb, lettered in black with "Reclaimed Water in Use."

C. Some properties, such as golf courses, may have signs indicating "Using Reclaimed Water."

#### V. ENFORCEMENT OF WATER CONSERVATION VIOLATIONS

A. First violation:

1. A warning WILL be issued to the property occupant.

2. A computer aided dispatch (CAD) incident number will be taken to record the issuance of the warning.

B. Subsequent violations at the same location:

1. The Officer will verify through the Emergency Communications Division's Foxtrot (information) channel a warning has been documented. The Officer should obtain the CAD (incident) number, the name of the Officer who issued the warning and the date the warning was issued.

2. A *Notice to Appear* is to be completed for the new violation.
  - a. The charge is for violation of City Ordinance 27- 43 (Declaration of Water Shortage). The violation is a Category IV offense.
  - b. If the occupant or person in control of the property is not available, the “Notice to Appear” shall be completed to the fullest extent possible.
3. An offense number will be taken and the appropriate report completed.
4. If the Officer cannot serve the “Notice to Appear” to a responsible person at the residence, the “Notice to Appear” and a copy of the report will be forwarded to the next shift for service.

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Anthony Holloway  
Chief of Police