

Catalina Island

Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing Fact Sheet

Overview

California is in a severe drought. Catalina is among the areas in the state that has been greatly impacted. Catalina residents and businesses have worked hard to conserve as rainfall totals have been far short of normal the past several years. Because of the extreme drought conditions, island residents and visitors cut back on water use even more last year to preserve our water resources.

The drought has severely depleted the water supply in Catalina's Middle Ranch Reservoir, which is used as an indicator of available drinking water on the island. Southern California Edison began Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing on Aug. 11, 2014. The 25 percent water reduction, authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, was triggered when the reservoir level fell below 300-acre feet.

Because SCE developed an additional source of drinking water for Avalon, a second desalination plant, the company asked the utilities commission for permission to delay implementing Stage 3 Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing, which would have triggered a 50 percent water reduction when the reservoir level fell below 200-acre feet. SCE's request was approved on Nov. 22, 2015.

Catalina had been in Stage 1 Mandatory Water Conservation since June 2013. That was triggered when the reservoir level fell below 600-acre feet. When full, the reservoir level is about 1,149-acre feet.

What Happens With Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing In Effect?

Part of the water rationing plan includes the use of monthly water allotments. SCE provided customers with their individual monthly water allotments, which were calculated from their monthly water use from the 12 months before Stage 1 Mandatory Water Conservation was implemented. Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing requires a 25 percent reduction from that water usage. In other words, a customer's monthly water allotment is a 25 percent reduction from the water used for the same month during the 12-month period before Stage 1 Mandatory Water Conservation was implemented. Customers are responsible for monitoring their water use to ensure they do not exceed their water allotments. The 25 percent water usage reduction is being strictly enforced.

What Happens If I Exceed My Water Allotment?

First offense:	Customer will receive a written warning on their bill.
Second offense:	SCE will install a flow-restricting device on the customer's water service line. The device will be removed after a minimum 3-day period has elapsed and upon payment of a \$200 fee.
Third offense:	SCE will install a flow-restricting device on the customer's water service line. The device will not be removed until water rationing is no longer required and upon payment of another \$200 fee.
Each Additional Offense:	\$100 more than the previous fine. (This is not to exceed \$500.)

Any tampering with a flow-restricting device may result in fines or discontinuation of water use at SCE's discretion.

Are There Additional Restrictions on Water Use?

Stage 2 Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing includes the following prohibitions and restrictions on the use of fresh water, subject to future changes if directed by the California Public Utilities Commission:

- **Prohibited:** Use through any meter when the company has notified the customer in writing to repair a broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system and the customer has failed to make such repairs within five business days.
- **Prohibited:** Use of water fit for drinking that result in flooding, runoff, or overspray.
- **Prohibited:** Individual private washing of cars, or private boats or aircrafts with a hose except with the use of a positive action shut-off nozzle or three-gallon bucket. Use of water fit for drinking for washing commercial aircraft, buses, boats, trailers, or other commercial vehicles at any time, except at commercial or fleet vehicle or boat washing facilities operated at a fixed location where equipment using water is properly maintained to avoid wasteful use.

- **Prohibited:** Use of water fit for drinking for washing buildings and structures, street cleaning, driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas, except in the cases where health and safety are at risk.
- **Prohibited:** Use of water fit for drinking to irrigate plants, gardens, or ornamental landscaping by means other than drip irrigation, or hand watering without quick acting positive action shut-off nozzles. Watering by use of a container or bucket not exceeding a three-gallon capacity will be permitted at any time.
- **Prohibited:** Use of water fit for drinking for construction purposes such as consolidation of backfill, dust control, mixing of cement concrete (except at an established cement concrete plant), preparation of mortar, curing, site clean-up, or other uses except where such construction is minor and does not require a permit or is required for safety and health reasons.
- **Prohibited:** Operation of commercial car washes without recycling at least 50 percent of the water fit for drinking used per cycle.
- **Prohibited:** Use of water fit for drinking for the filling or refilling of swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and decorative fountains. Water level in existing pools, spas, and hot tubs that circulate water may be maintained to ensure continued operation of recirculation equipment only if they are equipped with a specifically designed cover in good working condition when not in use.
- **Prohibited:** Service of water by any restaurant except upon the request of a patron.
- **Prohibited:** The use of fresh water from fire hydrants, at any time, for any purpose other than fire suppression.
- **Restricted:** The watering of plants, gardens or ornamental landscaping by drip irrigation or hand watering with a quick acting positive action shut-off nozzle or turf and lawns with sprinkler systems shall be limited to Tuesdays and Fridays only, during the hours of 6p.m. to 7 p.m., during the period Pacific Daylight Time is in effect, and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., during the period Pacific Standard Time is in effect. Watering by use of a container or bucket, not exceeding a three-gallon capacity, will be permitted at any time on Tuesdays and Fridays only unless the water is recycled (e.g., collected in showering buckets), which will be permitted on any day.

To comply with Gov. Jerry Brown's executive order from earlier this year, SCE added four more restrictions. The commission approved the changes on Nov. 22. They are:

- To promote water conservation, operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guestroom using clear and easily understood language.
- **Prohibited:** The application of water fit for drinking to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- **Prohibited:** The irrigation with water fit for drinking of ornamental turf on public street medians.
- **Prohibited:** The irrigation with water fit for drinking of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Customers who violate any water use restriction will be subject to the following fines:



First offense:	Written Warning
Second offense: (of the same restriction)	\$50
Third offense: (of the same restriction)	\$100
Each additional offense: (of the same restriction)	\$100 more than the previous fine imposed. (Not to exceed \$500.)

SCE may, after one written warning, install a flow-restricting device on the service line of any customer observed by SCE personnel to be using water for any non-essential or unauthorized use.

For More Information

Please visit [sce.com/catalina](https://www.sce.com/catalina) or call **1-800-367-8851**. The California Public Utilities Commission-approved Schedule 14.1 explains the requirements and restrictions that are part of Stage 2 Mandatory Water Rationing; they are available online at [on.sce.com/catalinatariff](https://www.on.sce.com/catalinatariff).