

STAR LAKE WATER SHORTAGE PLAN

Adopted by Board of Directors May 19, 2020

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the goal of the Board of Trustees of the Star Community Club to provide clean, safe, and affordable water to members of the Star Lake Community. In providing water to Community members, the Board has traditionally tried to avoid policing and monitoring the amount of water used by individual members of the Community. However, Board members recognize that water is a precious and limited resource that should not be wasted and that members of the Community should be encouraged to conserve water by monitoring their own water usage to avoid needless or unnecessary waste.

The Board further recognizes that during the summer months, water levels drop and the amount of water that can be supplied through our system is limited. During such times, it may become necessary for the Board to take steps to protect and conserve our water supply, including rationing if necessary, when we face moderate or severe water shortages.

The Board also recognizes that while the amount of water used by individual members varies, every member should have the right to an equal amount of the Community's water supply and that an excessive use of water by one member impacts the amount of water that can be used by other Community members. The Board further recognizes that the cost to pump, treat, and maintain our water system goes up exponentially the more our water system is overused and abused.

Lastly, the Board recognizes that there is a need for a general water usage plan that sets forth clear procedures and guidelines for addressing water shortages, as well as a need for written policies addressing excessive uses of water by individual Community members.

II. ADOPTION OF WATER SHORTAGE PLAN

With these considerations in mind, and pursuant to state law as set forth in WAC 246-290-100(4)(f)(iii),¹ the Board of Trustees of the Star Lake Community Club hereby adopts the following water shortage response Plan and guidelines to help insure that the Community has an adequate supply of water to meet the reasonable needs of all Community members in times of shortage.

In adopting this Plan, the Board is mindful of the provisions of WAC 246-290-420(8), which states

- (8) Restrictions on designed, or historically documented, normal water uses shall not be allowed except under the following conditions:
 - (a) Whenever there is clear evidence that, unless limitations are imposed, water use at normal levels will lead to a relatively rapid depletion of water source reserves, such as in drought situations or when significant facility failures occur;
 - (b) Whenever a water system observes that demands for water exceed the available supply, as a result of such events as miscalculated planning, inattentive operation, or unforeseen problems with sources and that limitations would be necessary to insure basic levels of service while additional sources were being sought or developed, or the situation was being otherwise remedied; or
 - (c) Whenever the water system institutes restrictions as part of a water use efficiency program which has been accepted by the system consumers through appropriate public decision-making processes within existing governance mechanisms, or has been mandated under state regulatory authority.

III. DEFINITIONS

¹ WAC 246-290-100(4)(f)(iii) provides as follows:

- (4) The purveyor shall, at a minimum, address the following elements in the water system plan:
 - ...
 - (f) (iii) A water shortage response plan as a component of the reliability and emergency response requirements under WAC 246-290-420;

Water Shortage – A water shortage is a minor or moderate shortage of available water that may impact our water supply and the ability of our water system to meet the usage demands of our Community if water is not conserved.

Critical Water Shortage -- A critical water shortage is a shortage that occurs when the water reserves in our wells fall below 35%.

Excessive Use – An excessive use of water is water usage that substantially deviates from the average amount of water used by individual Community members.

Average Amount of Water Usage -- For purposes of this Plan, the average amount of water used by individual Community members and households is deemed to be 10,000 gallons a month per member or household based on meter readings.

Substantial Deviation – A substantial deviation from the average amount of water used by Community members is water usage by an individual Community member or household that exceeds average amount of water usage by 5,000 gallons or more a month based on meter readings.

Essential Water Needs – Essential water needs include drinking water, water for bathing, water for cooking, and small amounts of water for other household usage. Essential water needs do not include water for lawns and gardens, washing cars, hot tubs, and other uses determined by the Board of Trustees to be nonessential.

IV. POLICY GUIDELINES

a. Water Shortage Guidelines

The objective of these guidelines is to encourage members of the Community to conserve water by voluntarily reducing their water consumption.

To help the Community to achieve this objective, the Board will:

- (1) Use the reader board by the clubhouse to keep Community members informed of our water situation, particularly in the summer months.
- (2) Placing a flashing red light on the reader board that is activated when there is a critical water shortage.
- (3) Circulate fliers or include articles in our Newsletter that have practical suggestions on how to conserve water to all households in the Community.
- (4) Encourage Community members to check for exterior and internal water leaks on their property and in their homes.
- (5) Encourage Community members to fix dripping facets, running toilets, and any leaking dish washers and washing machines, etc. Also encouraging Community members to retrofit their showers and toilets,
- (6) Encourage Community members to turn off facets and hoses when they are not in use.
- (7) Encourage Community members not to water their lawns and gardens in the middle of the day.
- (8) Encourage the voluntary registration of cell phones to allow for group texts in the event of a critical water shortage.
- (9) Encourage neighbors to call neighbors when there is a critical water shortage.
- (10) Prioritize giving notice of severe water shortages to Community members whose monthly water usage substantially deviates from the amount average water usage of individual Community members or households

In addition to the voluntary measures discussed above, the Board of Trustees may vote to restrict some usages of water to certain times and frequencies, if necessary. Limits and restrictions that may be imposed by the Board include:

- (1) Limiting the watering of lawns and gardens to 1 hour per day either after 8 p.m. or before 8 a.m. This includes watering the golf course, as well as lawn and garden sprinklers.
- (2) Restricting the washing of cars to no more than once a week between the hours of 8 p.m. through 8 a.m.
- (3) Requiring home owners to fix all known water leaks on their property.
- (4) Banning the hosing of paved surfaces.
- (5) Prohibiting water from running out into, or down, the street.
- (6) Adopting other similar measures that are consistent with these guidelines.

Any restrictions implemented by the Board to address a water shortage shall remain in force until the water shortage has subsided and the Board votes to lift these restrictions.

b. Critical Water Shortage Guidelines

If the Community's water levels drop to the critical stage, the Board of Trustees may vote to implement the limits and restrictions listed below, in addition to the limits and restrictions above, in order to preserve enough water in our system to meet the essential water needs of Community members. Additional limits and restrictions that may be imposed by the Board include:

- (1) Water rationing
- (2) Fining members for nonessential uses of water or excessive water usage
- (3) Shutting off the water of members whose water usage continues to substantially deviate water from the average water usage of individual Community members

or households during periods of critical water shortages. Before this option may be exercised, the Community member shall be given written notice asking the Community member to abate his or her excessive use of water. If after a ten day period of receiving an abatement notice, the Community member's water usage still substantially deviates from average water usage, the Board may shut off the member's water with a \$200 fine to reconnect their water. If after being reconnected, the Community member's water usage continues to substantially deviate from the average water usage of individual Community members, the Board may shut off the member's water until there is no longer a critical water shortage. Once there is no longer a critical water shortage, the Community member may have his or her water reconnected upon payment of \$500 fine.

- (4) Adopting other similar measures that are consistent with these guidelines to protect our water supply during periods of severe water shortages.

Any restrictions implemented by the Board shall remain in force until our water supply is no longer at the critical level and the Board votes to remove the restrictions it has imposed.

V. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

a. Violation of Water Shortage Restrictions and Limitations:

The emphasis of enforcement procedures for the violation of water shortage restrictions and limitations is on discouraging further violations through the use of warnings. However, after two or more warnings, the Club authorizes the Board to impose a fine not to exceed \$25 per incident, if a member continues to violate the limitations and restrictions imposed by the Board.

b. Violation of Critical Water Restrictions:

The Club authorizes the Board of Trustees to fine members who violate critical water restrictions approved by the Board. The amount of any fines levied against individual Community members for such violations shall be left to the discretion of the Board to be determined on a case by case basis. But such fines shall not exceed \$50 for each violation.

c. Excessive Use of Water:

To curb excessive use of our water supply, the Club authorizes the Board of Trustees to fine members whose water usage substantially deviates from the average amount of water used

by Community members. This provision applies year round regardless of whether or not there is a water shortage. The amount of any fines levied against individual Community members for the over use of water shall be left to the discretion of the Board to be determined on a case by case basis. But such fines shall not exceed \$100 for each month that the member's water usage substantially deviates from the average amount of water used by Community members.