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Kingston Water Department

PO Box 1537, Kingston, N.Y. 12402

Notice:

For Immediate Release

August 2, 2022

Drought Emergency

On July 14, 2022, the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Kingston declared a drought alert for all its customers, requesting voluntary water conservation. The drought alert was the first stage of the Department's response plan for combating decreasing water level in our Cooper Lake reservoir. To accommodate the mandated construction work for the Cooper Lake Dam Rehabilitation project, in July of 2021 the level at our Cooper Lake Reservoir had to be lowered 10ft below maximum capacity. This level needs to be maintained for the duration of the dam construction. This in combination with the continued lack of recent rainfall at our intake and warm weather has caused the reservoir to continue to drop.

Due to this continued decrease in our reservoir level, effective immediately the City of Kingston Water Department has declared a **Drought Emergency** and has instituted the first stage of mandatory restrictions for all customers supplied with water from the City of Kingston. These restrictions are effective immediately and include:

1. All leaks shall be fixed immediately
2. No washing of cars or other vehicles. Only those commercial vehicle washing operations that recycle 50% of the water used are exempt from this regulation
3. No washing sidewalks, buildings, driveways, steps, or other outdoor areas by any means that is connected to or supplied by the Kingston Water Department
4. All ornamental artificial water features, such as fountains, water falls, reflecting pools, etc., that do not use recycled water must be discontinued
5. There shall be no watering of lawns, golf courses, or ornamental shrubs, plants, or trees, except that:
 - a. Lawns, ornamental plants, trees, and shrubs, and golf courses may be watered once each day from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM;
 - b. Water may be used at anytime from a hand held container to water vegetables or fruit trees grown for human consumption
 - c. Plant nurseries or other commercial growers engaged in the business of growing, distributing, or selling plants may use water on their premises for watering their plants, provided that each such user reduces its use of water by 15 percent.
6. Pools that are equipped with recirculation equipment may continue in operation and water may be used to maintain the water level in the pool. All pools that are not

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equipped with recirculation devices cannot be refilled nor can water from the City supply be used to maintain the water level.

7. All non-residential users of water from the Kingston Water Department shall prepare and retain a water consumption reduction plan, enabling it to reduce its use of water in stages of 15%, 20%, and 25% based upon its consumption during the calendar year. During this Stage 1 of the Drought Emergency, the 15% reduction in consumption is immediately effective.

The complete Rules and Regulations restricting water use during this emergency may be found at <http://www.kingston-ny.gov/water> or obtained by calling the Business Office of the Kingston Water Department at 845-331-0175. The penalty for violating any of these rules is \$50 per occurrence, the Board of Water Commissioners intends to work with our residents and businesses, to the extent possible, to reduce our consumption and extend our available supplies and has included a variance mechanism in these regulations to achieve that goal. If we can be of assistance, please contact us at 845-331-0175.

Some Conservation Tips (find more tips at www.kingston-ny.gov/water):

- Fix leaky faucets. Those drips add up and repairing leaky toilets and sinks will save you on your next water and sewer bill
- Only run washing machines and dishwashers when they are full
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth. This can save up to 4 gallons with each brushing. That can add up. If everyone in the City does this twice each day, we could save 200,000 gallons of water each day, or 5% of our daily usage in the City of Kingston.
- Consider using low flow fixtures and shower heads.

During the emergency, Water Department personnel will continue to be actively engaged in leak detection and will be repairing all known leaks as soon as possible. To augment our supplies, we have also begun the process of running temporary pipes to tap NYC's Ashokan Reservoir.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation as we work through this difficult time.