

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Main-Line News

www.denniswater.org

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MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ON OUTDOOR WATERING

Much Stricter and Enforced Water Restrictions for 2022

This spring and summer, water restrictions will be implemented again, but they will be more restrictive than last year and there will be active enforcement for violations. Last year many customers helped in our effort to reduce usage during the drought. Unfortunately, there were many that did not and they continued to irrigate their lawns without regard to any limitation. At the time this newsletter was going to press, there has not been a recovery in groundwater levels over the fall and winter when precipitation recharges the water supply. Demand for water begins in May and does not begin to drop off until after Labor Day. Last year when the season began, the groundwater was already below normal so a mandatory odd-even day watering restriction was ordered by the Board of Water Commissioners. This year is on target to be even more difficult for water production to meet the high demands of the summer season. Therefore, out of necessity, all customers will have to adhere to a mandatory maximum limit of two-day per week outdoor watering. As the spring season moves into summer, conditions will be monitored closely and if necessary, outdoor water restrictions could become even more restricted or an outright watering ban may be declared.

Properties will be limited to a maximum of two days per week watering schedule beginning May 1st through Sept 30th. Watering days will be based on the street address. Property addresses ending in an odd number may water on Wednesday and Saturday only. Those addresses that end in an even number may water on Thursday and Sunday only.

IF YOUR ADDRESS ENDS IN...	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1, 3, 5, 7, 9							
0, 2, 4, 6, 8							

Basic Rules

Wasteful and Unnecessary Use of Water Is Prohibited

- Allowing water to flow from an unattended hose
- Hosing down a driveway or solid surface or structure when a dry method could be used (broom)
- Allowing water to flow from a broken sprinkler head, outdoor faucet, malfunctioning plumbing or irrigation system after receiving verbal or written notice is a violation and subject to fines

Gardens

- The 2022 Water Restrictions does not apply to vegetable gardens for human consumption

New Lawns and Plants - Establishment Period

- New lawns and plants have a 60-day total establishment period
- From day 1 thru 30, new plant material may be watered any day of the week
- From day 31 thru 60, new plant material may be watered *3 days per-week* in accordance with the following:

Even addresses only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday
Odd addresses only on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday

- Isolated to new lawn or plant areas only
- Establishment period begins on the day of installation or the first day of watering
- Property owners or managers shall call the District at 508-398-3351 to report new installations and, upon request, provide proof of installation date for the Establishment period authorization and avoid violations

Chemical Applications

- Irrigation to water-in necessary lawn chemicals is not restricted when required by the manufacturer or when required by law
- Property owners or managers shall call the District at 508-398-3351 prior to, or immediately following, the application of chemicals and shall, upon request, provide proof of the application date to avoid violations

WATERING RESTRICTION ENFORCEMENT

The violations below are representative of those that are currently authorized by Dennis Water District Bylaw, Article 5 - "Water Use Restrictions." As of the printing of this newsletter, the Board of Water Commissioners is considering amendments to this bylaw at the April 26, 2022, Annual District Meeting. To read the current bylaw please visit the District's website under Resources, Rules, Regulations and Bylaws.

- ◆ **First-time** violators will receive a warning through a door hanger notice and by letter.
- ◆ **Second-time** violations will be subject to a fine of \$50.
- ◆ **Third-time** violations will be subject to a fine of \$100 and for each subsequent occurrence.

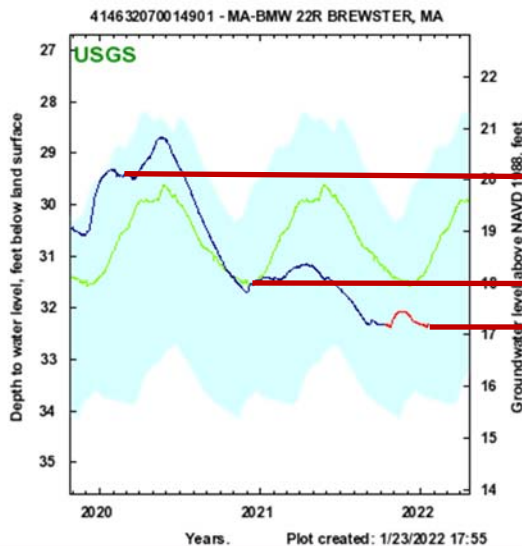
WHY ARE THESE RESTRICTIONS SO IMPORTANT?

Groundwater levels observed in the USGS monitoring well in Brewster, indicate that levels are significantly below average and that water use restrictions will be necessary to ensure that an adequate water supply will be available during the high demands of the summer season.

2020 Near Record High

2021 At Average Only In January

2022 Below Average for Last 12 months



Please help the District continue to provide sufficient water to meet the needs of Dennis residents, businesses and visitors throughout the summer of 2022 while access to this invaluable resource will be limited. Thank you.

PFAS UPDATE

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated PFAS drinking water regulations that required sampling to be conducted by the District. At the time the last newsletter was issued in August 2021, there were no known detections. It was at the Southside Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant (South Plant), considered an entry point into the distribution system, that had a detection of 2 parts per-trillion on 7/7/21. This is well below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ppt. Confirmation samples were taken on 8/3/21 from the plant as well as from all the sources that pump through it. Results confirmed the plant again at 2.3 ppt and Well 5 at 5.3 ppt and Well 16 at 8.5 ppt. All of these detections were also well below the MCL of 20 ppt.

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP promulgated a new drinking water regulation and a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 ng/L (ng/L = approximately parts per trillion or ppt) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6)

After consultation with MassDEP about the detections and confirmations it was agreed that there were no violations of any drinking water regulations. However, MassDEP directed the District to proceed with further quarterly sampling to monitor the detection at the South Plant. Samples taken the following quarter, had a result of 4.7 ppt 10/8/21 at the South Plant. This remains well below the PFAS MCL of 20 ppt. Quarterly monitoring will continue.

The South Plant is an entry point into the distribution system. It is slightly unique in that it is a common entry point for six wells which essentially blends the water from those wells together as it exits the treatment plant. In this case, blending water from different sources reduces the levels of contaminants. This is an effective and approved MassDEP approach to treatment. The pumping rotation for Well 5 and Well 16 was adjusted to blend, control and reduce the detected levels of PFAS. Continued sampling by MassDEP guidelines will be followed and reported in the District's Annual Water Quality Report for 2021 and future newsletters.

What is PFAS and where does it come from?

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacture of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products and is found in a wide range of consumer products that people use daily such as cookware, pizza boxes and candy wrappers just to name a few. They are more commonly referred to as "forever" chemicals because they do not break down in the environment and can accumulate over time.

The areas around Wells 5 and 16 were reviewed. Those areas are mostly District-owned watershed land, residential neighborhoods and a small commercially zoned corridor. That review did not find any evidence of contamination or illegal dumping. Further monitoring will continue as a precautionary measure.

For more information please visit our website at www.denniswater.org and click on **PFAS** in the **Easy Access Box**.