



**ORDINANCE NO. 0-10-2025
ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT
PROHIBITING POTABLE WATER FROM BEING USED TO
IRRIGATE CERTAIN AREAS OF NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF**

WHEREAS, Rowland Water District (the District) receives the majority of its potable water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and through MWD's member agency, Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Three Valleys); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code Section 31026 et seq. and Water Code Sections 350-375, the District is authorized to adopt and empowered to enact and enforce restrictions on water use and water conservation programs to conserve its water supplies and prevent water waste; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 13550 states that the use of potable domestic water for non-potable purposes is a waste or an unreasonable use of the water within the meaning of Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution if recycled water is available, and any person may be required to use recycled water as long as it meets Title 22 water quality standards and is provided at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 13551 et seq. states that no person shall use potable water for non-potable purposes if suitable recycled water is available and certain conditions are met, and the use of such recycled water shall be a beneficial use of water that does not impact water rights; and

WHEREAS, the District actively promotes and has implemented water conservation measures and has developed a recycled water system to offset use of potable water, which has helped to increase the reliability of the District's water supplies for its customers; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the District's statutory authority described above, in 2022 the District adopted Ordinance 0-2-2022, which established water conservation and water supply shortage requirements applicable to all customers, including increasing levels of restrictions on the use of potable water on nonfunctional turf during certain water shortage conditions; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Legislature adopted AB 1572, which further prohibits the use of potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf at all times on certain non-residential properties by certain dates, and requires the District to update its regulations to enforce the State-mandated prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted water conservation regulations as part of the “Conservation as a Way of Life” legislation that will require the District to significantly reduce its potable water use over time; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to adopt this ordinance, pursuant to its existing authority as described above, and implement the State requirements of Water Code Section 10608.14 as they relate to the use of potable water on nonfunctional turf for certain types of properties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District as follows:

Section 1: Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, the terms in this Ordinance shall have the same meanings as defined in Water Code Section 10608.12.

Section 2: Compliance Responsibility

The customer of the District whose name is on the account shall be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 3: Existing Water Conservation Ordinance

This Ordinance is in addition to and does not repeal or replace any other current District ordinance, including Ordinance 02-2-2022, concerning water conservation or restrictions, unless explicitly stated. The requirements herein do not affect any other limits on watering hours, responsibilities to fix leaks or breaks, or any other activities in which water may be used within the District.

Section 4: Prohibition on Use of Potable Water To Irrigate Nonfunctional Turf

The use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf located on commercial, industrial, and institutional properties, other than a cemetery, and on properties of homeowners’ associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities is prohibited. This Ordinance shall take effect as follows:

- (1) All properties owned by the Department of General Services, beginning January 1, 2027.
- (2) All properties owned by local governments, local or regional public agencies, and public water systems, except those specified in paragraph (5) below, beginning January 1, 2027.
- (3) All other institutional properties and all commercial and industrial properties, beginning January 1, 2028.
- (4) All common areas of properties of homeowners’ associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities, beginning January 1, 2029.
- (5) All properties owned by local governments, local public agencies, and public water systems in a disadvantaged community, beginning January 1, 2031, or the date upon which

a state funding source is made available to fund conversion of nonfunctional turf on these properties to climate-appropriate landscapes, whichever is later.

Nonfunctional turf includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1) Turf or ground cover located within street rights-of-way and parking lots;
- (2) Turf which is not assigned or allocated to the exclusive use of the occupants of an individual dwelling unit within the property;
- (3) Common areas of homeowners associations; and
- (4) Turf which is enclosed by fencing or other barriers to permanently preclude human access for recreation or assembly.

Section 5: Exceptions

The use of potable water is not prohibited by this Ordinance to the extent necessary to ensure the health of trees and other perennial nonturf vegetation, or to the extent necessary to address an immediate health and safety need.

Potable water may be used to irrigate turf which has been designated by a property owner or a governmental agency to accommodate human foot traffic for civic, ceremonial, or other community events or social gatherings; turf located in a recreational use area or community space; and turf located in sports fields, golf courses, playgrounds, picnic grounds, or pet exercise areas.

The restrictions set forth in the section above shall not apply to private residential properties, and residential customers may continue to irrigate turf according to the District's water conservation ordinance.

Section 6: Compliance and Enforcement

Customers who use potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf in violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to the penalties and procedures in Section 10 of Ordinance 2-02-2022. For ease of reference, the penalties are restated below:

- a. **First Violation.** A written notice will be provided to the customer by mail or personal delivery informing them of the violation and the timeline for compliance.
- b. **Second Violation.** For a second violation within twelve (12) calendar months of the first violation, a final written notice on non-compliance will be provided to the customer by mail or personal delivery informing them of the violation and the timeframe for compliance. In addition, for second violations that occur during a Level 3, 4, or 5 Water Supply Shortage, a \$50 fine will be imposed. For second violations that occur during a Level 6 Water Supply Shortage, a \$150 fine will be imposed.
- c. **Third Violation.** For a third violation within twelve (12) calendar months of the first violation, a written notice of non-compliance will be provided to the customer by mail or personal delivery informing them of the violation and the timeframe for compliance. In addition, for third violations that occur during a Level 1 and 2 Water Supply Shortage, a

\$50 fine will be imposed. For third violations that occur during a Level 3, 4, or 5 Water Supply Shortage, a \$150 fine will be imposed. For third violations that occur during a Level 6 Water Supply Shortage, a \$200 fine will be imposed and a flow restrictor may be installed.

- d. **Fourth Violation.** For a fourth violation within twelve (12) calendar months of the first violation, a written notice of non-compliance will be provided to the customer by mail or personal delivery informing them of the violation and the timeframe for compliance. In addition, for fourth violations that occur during a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage, a \$100 fine will be imposed. For fourth violations that occur during a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage, a \$150 fine will be imposed. For fourth violations that occur during a Level 3, 4, or 5 Water Supply Shortage, a \$200 fine will be imposed and a flow restrictor may be installed. For fourth violations that occur during a Level 6 Water Supply Shortage, water service may be disconnected.
- e. **Fifth Violation.** For a fifth violation within twelve (12) calendar months of the first violation, a written notice of non-compliance will be provided to the customer by mail or personal delivery informing them of the violation and the timeframe for compliance. In addition, for fifth violations that occur during a Level 1 or 2 Water Supply Shortage, a \$150 fine will be imposed and a flow restrictor may be installed. For fifth violations that occur during a Level 3, 4, 5, or 6 Water Supply Shortage, water service may be disconnected.
- f. **Service Disconnection.** In addition to the penalties in this section, and after notice to the customer, the District may shut off a customer's water service for willful violations of mandatory restrictions in this Ordinance. The customer is responsible for the cost of reconnecting service consistent with District Rules and Regulations.
- g. **Separate Violations.** Each violation of this Ordinance is a separate offense. However, for the limited purpose of calculating the number of violations to determine the escalating penalties in this section, multiple violations on the same day will only count as one violation.

Section 7: Certification of Compliance

Customers having more than 5,000 square feet of irrigated area in commercial, industrial, or institutional property shall certify their compliance to the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to requirements of Water Code Section 10608.14(e).

Section 8: Deferral

The State Water Resources Control Board may defer compliance for up to three years upon a showing of good cause for reasons which may include economic hardship, critical business need, and potential impacts to human health or safety. The District shall not authorize any period of deferral or postponement that is not first authorized by the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to Water Code Section 10608.14(c).

Section 9: Appeals

If a customer believes that areas on their property have been improperly deemed nonfunctional turf, or that they require an exception to the use of potable water for irrigation, they may make a written request for an appeal to the District. Customers may appeal notices of violation and potable water use requirements by filing a written appeal with the District within ten (10) days of the date of the Notice of Violation. Any Notice of Violation not timely appealed will be final. Upon receipt of a timely appeal, a hearing on the appeal will be scheduled, and the District will mail, personally deliver, and/or electronically transmit written notice of the hearing date to the customer at least twenty (20) calendar days before the date of the hearing. The General Manager, or their authorized delegate, shall serve as the hearing officer and make any and all decisions regarding any appeals. The District shall send written notification of any decision within fifteen (15) days after the hearing. All hearing decisions are final.

If any violation occurs after a customer's appeal is denied, then the customer's account shall be subject to the penalties in Section 6 listed above.

Section 10: Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 11. Implementation

The Secretary shall cause this Ordinance to be published within fifteen (15) days after its adoption, at least once in a newspaper of general circulation which is distributed within the boundaries of the District.

Said ordinance was adopted, on roll call vote, at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held October 14, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Bellah, Hsu, Lewis, Lima, and Lu-Yang

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 0-10-2025, adopted by the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District at its regular meeting held on October 14, 2025.



JOHN BELLAH
Board President

ATTEST: 

TOM COLEMAN
Secretary

