



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

FROM: Trish Rhay, Assistant Director of Public Works Services, Infrastructure & Field Operations
Michelle Tse, Planning and Research Analyst

DATE: February 11, 2016

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT A RESTRICTOR POLICY FOR LARGEST WATER USERS

ATTACHMENT: None

The City Council, at its January 5, 2016 Study Session, directed staff to develop a program framework for identifying and implementing water restrictors on meters and/or shut off irrigation meters. This directive is consistent with the regulations outlined in Stage D of the City's conservation program. As such, staff presented the framework to the Conservation Subcommittee (Chair Aronberg and Vice Chair Wolfe) for review and is recommending the policy framework be presented to the City Council for consideration at its February 16, 2016, Study Session. The following sections outline the restrictor policy framework.

Staff will use customer consumption data to identify the highest water users across all customer classes. A "high water user" will be determined by reviewing overall water consumption and whether the customer is adhering to their conservation target. If a water user has exceeded their conservation target by at least two consecutive billing cycles, the City will notify the customer of their high water usage and give them at least one billing cycle (approximately 60 days) to change their behavior.

During this time, the customer must contact the City's Conservation Administrator to develop a customized Action Plan to achieve conservation. However, if the customer refuses to work with City staff, the customer will be notified that a restrictor will be installed on the property, and the installation and removal costs shall be borne by the customer. Staff is currently working with the City Attorney's office to address instances in which the restrictor may need to be installed on the customer's property. Additional information regarding this process will be presented during the February 11, 2016, Commission meeting.

A restrictor is a device that is clamped onto the water meter, dramatically limiting the amount of water that flows to the property. The restrictor will remain on the meter for at least two billing cycles (approximately 4 months), unless the customer contacts the City during that time period. If the customer requests removal of the restrictor, conditions may be imposed, such as developing and adhering to an Action Plan developed by the Conservation Administrator. It is expected that the customer implements the Action Plan to conserve water.

This approach would be applied to single family, multi-family and commercial water customers. The policy was not designed to promote the installation of water flow restrictors; the policy was designed as a last resort to promote conservation amongst the highest water users.

The City's Stage D conservation program states that "continued excessive use may result in termination of water supply through irrigation water services and/or restriction of water supply through domestic meters." The proposed policy framework further elaborates the criteria and process in how a restrictor policy can be implemented.

At this time, staff is aware of one city (Arcadia) that is currently implementing a water restrictor policy. Under their policy, the City installs a restrictor only if a customer has received repeated citations for non-compliance. The restrictor would remain in place for no less than 48 hours and the customer must demonstrate intent to comply before the restrictor is removed. They have installed approximately four restrictors, two of which are on vacant properties.

Staff seeks Commission input regarding the restrictor policy framework, which will be presented to the City Council at its February 16, 2016, Study Session for consideration.