

## Brunswick County Media Release



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### **UPDATE - Stage 1 – Water Conservation Alert - UPDATE**

Bolivia, NC – A Stage 1 Water Conservation Alert was instituted for all customers of any Brunswick County public water system on May 28, 2019, due to record water demand caused by excessive temperatures, lack of rain, and an increased number of visitors to Brunswick County. As a result of customers' voluntary conservation measures combined with a break in the drought conditions, water demand has been reduced to more manageable levels. We thank you for your efforts to conserve water and to use it wisely. Although there has been some relief in the past week, hot, dry conditions are expected to return as we get into the summer season (June 21<sup>st</sup>) and the demand for water will continue to rise. Therefore, **the Stage 1 Water Conservation Alert will remain in force.** The conservation measures that customers have made voluntarily have had an impact in reducing water demands and we will need to continue these measures into the summer months. **Please continue to use water wisely.** We request that you **continue to irrigate during off-peak time periods according to the schedule below.** If you have a water-intensive activity (power-washing, topping off swimming pools) please do these during off-peak hours or schedule during overcast, rainy days when water demand is typically less. If there is a significant increase in water demand requiring amplified attention, we will provide notification through the media, our Web site, and by sending emergency messages via telephone. Additional information can be found at <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/> or by calling 910-253-2657.

Under a Stage 1 Water Alert, water system customers are requested to make voluntary adjustments as follows:

- 1. Defer all non-essential water use to outside the peak demand hours of 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m; preferably after nightfall.**
2. Don't overwater your yard. One inch of water per week in the summer will keep most types of grass healthy. To determine how long you need to run your sprinkler to provide 1" of water, place straight edged cans at different distances from your sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill an average of 1" of water in each can. Water occasionally, but deeply to encourage deeper rooting that makes grass more drought/heat tolerant.
3. Install rain shut-off devices on automatic sprinkler systems.
4. Don't water pavement and impervious surfaces.

5. **Use the following recommended irrigation schedule to even out system demands:**
  - a. **Odd address numbers - Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday**
  - b. **Even address numbers - Wednesday/Friday/Sunday**
  - c. **No irrigation on Mondays**
6. Limit lawn watering to that necessary for plant survival. Water lawns outside of the peak demand hours of 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m; preferably after nightfall.
7. Water shrubbery the minimum required. Water shrubbery outside of the peak demand hours of 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Use drip irrigation systems in shrubbery beds and around trees to prevent water loss through evaporation.
8. Use abundant mulch around trees and shrubs to retain moisture.
9. Plant drought-tolerant grasses, trees, and plants.
10. Adjust mower height to a higher setting to retain moisture.
11. Limit the use of clothes washers and dishwashers and when used, operate fully loaded. Operate dishwashers outside of the peak demand hours of 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m; preferably after nightfall.
12. Limit vehicle washing to a minimum. Use commercial car washes that recycle water.
13. Use shower for bathing rather than bathtub and limit shower to no more than five (5) minutes.
14. Inspect and repair all faulty and defective parts of faucets and toilets. Pay attention to dripping sounds.
15. Do not leave faucets running while shaving, brushing teeth, rinsing or preparing food.
16. Do not wash down outside areas such as sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.
17. Install water-saving showerheads and other water conservation devices.
18. Install water-saving devices in toilets such as early closing flappers.
19. Limit hours of water-cooled air conditioners.
20. Keep drinking water in a container in the refrigerator instead of running water from a faucet until it is cool.
21. Do not fill new (or empty) swimming or wading pools. Top off existing swimming pools from dusk until dawn.
22. Cover pool and spas when not in use to prevent evaporation.
23. Use disposable and biodegradable dishes where possible.

All customers of a public water system anywhere in Brunswick County are affected by Water Conservation Alerts. Brunswick County Public Utilities provides water service in unincorporated portions of Brunswick County as well as the following communities: Boiling Spring Lakes, Bolivia, Calabash, Carolina Shores, Caswell Beach, Sandy Creek, St. James, Sunset Beach, and Varnamtown. Customers of other utilities such as Bald Head Island, Brunswick Regional – H2GO (Belville), Holden Beach, Leland, Navassa, Northwest, Oak Island, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, and Southport are under the same restrictions since these utilities receive their water from Brunswick County Public Utilities.

Please note that this Stage 1 Water Conservation Alert does not affect the use of private groundwater wells or those using highly treated reclaimed wastewater. (St. James, Winding River, Sea Trail, and Sandpiper Bay golf courses use reclaimed water. Other golf courses use wells and ponds for irrigation.) Also, this is not a water quality advisory; this is a water conservation advisory. There is no need to boil water for potable use unless you receive a Low Pressure Advisory notice for your specific area due to other conditions in the water distribution system.

Residents will be notified if any other conservation measures are needed and when conditions dictate that restrictions are no longer required. Residents who have questions should contact their water service provider directly or Brunswick County Public Utilities at 910-253-2657. Additional information can be found at <<http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/>>.

– End –



## Water Shortage Response Plan Village of Bald Head Island, North Carolina PWSID # 04-10-130

The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand when certain conditions exist which may adversely affect the continued availability of water for the protection of public health, welfare and safety of the Village of Bald Head Island.

### I. Authorization

Whenever a condition outlined in Section IV is met the Village Manager shall order the Village Clerk to notify the mayor and council members of a pending state of emergency. A special meeting shall be assembled within (48) hours of this notification to review all information and enact the water shortage response provisions as necessary. If a quorum cannot be assembled within the above mentioned timeframe the Mayor (or Mayor pro tempore, if Mayor is unavailable) shall implement the Water shortage response (phase I, II, III).

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### II. Notification

The following notification methods will be used to inform Village staff and customers of a water shortage declaration: E-mail announcement, notices posted at all municipal buildings, notices posted on water bills. Water shortage response measures will be communicated through, the village website (<http://www.villagebhi.org>) PSA announcements on BHI cable channel (3).

### III. Levels of Response

Three levels of water shortage response are outlined below. The three levels of water shortage response are: Voluntary Conservation, Mandatory Conservation and Emergency Conservation. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water conservation measures follow.

| Phase | Response               | Description  |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| I     | Voluntary Conservation | Water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and improve water use efficiency; however, no penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions indicate a potential for shortage. <i>The following recommendations are encouraged</i> |

Village of Bald Head Island Water Shortage Response Plan

- Limit lawn watering to that which is necessary for the lawn to survive
- Water shrubbery the minimum amount required, reusing household water when possible
- Limit cart and boat washing to the minimum
- Refrain from washing down outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, and the like
- Use showers for bathing rather than baths, and limit showers to no more than four minutes
- Refrain from leaving faucets running while shaving or while rinsing dishes
- Limit use of clothes washers and dishwashers and when used, operate fully loaded
- Install water-flow restrictive devices in showerheads
- Use disposable and biodegradable dishes
- Install water-saving devices such as bricks or commercial units in toilet tanks to reduce volume. Insure toilet flapper valves are not leaking. *Note: This flapper can be checked by adding a food coloring to the toilet tank and visually checking to see if the color appears in the bowl. If it does show color the toilet is leaking.*

| Phase | Response               | Description   |
|-------|------------------------|---|
| II    | Mandatory Conservation | Water users must abide to water use reduction and efficiency measures; Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist. <b><i>The following measures shall be mandatory and enforced, penalties will apply for noncompliance</i></b> |

- Minimize all non-essential use of water
- Watering of grass is prohibited
- Outdoor irrigation is prohibited, except for:
  - a) Maintaining newly installed landscapes not to exceed the minimum watering rate necessary on the day of installation and not to exceed 30 days. After 30 days the landscaping will be considered existing landscaping. No new planting allowed after Phase II conservation is issued
  - b) Watering golf course tees, fairways and greens by means of an automated irrigation system between the hours of 8:00 PM and 6:00 AM with less than one inch of water per week
  - c) Erosion control project (permit required)
- Maintaining personal food gardens not to exceed the minimum watering rate necessary
- Maintaining existing landscape plantings at the minimum watering rate necessary, between the hours of 8:00 PM and 6:00 AM, using a hand held container or hose with automatic shutoff or using drip irrigation
- Maintaining plant inventories, by means designed and operated to maximize water use efficiency, at retail garden centers
- The use of water for washing or cleaning of mobile equipment including carts, trucks, boats and fleet vehicles is prohibited unless water use is deemed essential to maintain the safe operational use or equipment integrity
- The use of water for power washing of buildings and other structures is prohibited, except for paint prep only (permit required)
- The use of water from fire hydrants and hose bibs is prohibited, except for:
  - a) Fighting fire and fire protection purposes;
  - b) Testing or training fire fighters if it is necessary to protect public safety.

- c) Jetting piles to facilitate construction.
- d) Construction site hose bibs.
- The filling of family, public or private swimming pools, including hot tubs, spas and whirlpool tubs, is prohibited, except for the minimal amount of make-up water necessary to maintain a pool's structural integrity and filtration system

| Phase | Response                           | Description  |
|-------|------------------------------------|--|
| III   | Emergency Conservation (Mandatory) | Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allocated to preserve human health and environmental integrity. <b><i>The following measures shall be mandatory and enforced, penalties will apply for noncompliance</i></b> |

- No use of public or private water for other than essential purposes
- No watering of lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flowers or vegetable gardens, except for watering golf course tees and greens by means of an automated irrigation system between the hours of 8:00 PM and 6:00 AM with less than one inch of water per week
- No using water outside of structures for any use other than emergencies involving fire
- No introducing water into swimming pools
- No use of fire hydrants except for fighting fire
- All other uses of water will be limited to uses necessary to meet the essential human health and safety needs of the people of Bald Head Island.

#### IV. Triggers

The Village of Bald Head Island primary water source is groundwater from wells located throughout the Island. The Village also purchases water from Brunswick County Public Utilities as needed based on water demand or minimum purchase.

A state of emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever the availability to produce or supply water to Bald Head Island is critical. This critical state and level of conservation phase (I, II, III) could be based on but not limited to the following.

- Recommendations from the Governor of North Carolina and/or Drought Management Advisory Council of North Carolina
- The availability of water supply from Brunswick County *Note: When Brunswick County declares a water shortage the Village of Bald Head Island shall evaluate conditions both on and off Island to make a determination to declare a water shortage if necessary. During this time the Village Utilities Director will stay in close contact with Brunswick County Public Utilities and provide updates to the Village Manager as conditions change*
- Production wells must be pumped greater than (50) GPM to meet water demand
- Production wells are required to pump longer than (12) hour during a (24) hour prior to meet demand
- Production wells become influenced by salt water intrusion
- Mechanical malfunction of the distribution system
- Rapid drawdown of the Village well water supply (aquifer)
- Any cause to threaten the availability of water for human consumption, firefighting and protection of lives and property

Water shortage response phase (I, II, III) must be implemented whenever, measurements of the potable water storage tank triggers an entry into corresponding water conservation phases.

| Phase | Triggers Based on Water Storage Level   |
|-------|---|
| I     | Water sources or water production equipment unable to maintain potable water storage level above 60% capacity (approximately 15.0') |
| II    | Water sources or water production equipment unable to maintain potable water storage level above 40% capacity (approximately 10.0') |
| III   | Water sources or water production equipment unable to maintain potable water storage level above 25% capacity (approximately 6.0')  |

### Return to Normal

When water shortage conditions have abated and the situation is returning to normal, water conservation measures employed during each phase should be decreased in reverse order of implementation. Permanent measures directed toward long-term conservation should be implemented or continued so that the community will be in a better position to prevent shortages and respond to recurring water shortage conditions.

### V. Enforcement

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by Village of Bald Head Island Utilities Department and Public Safety Officers. Violators may be reported to Public Safety, Village Hall, Utilities or Public Works Departments.

#### Violations; penalties

- (a) Upon the violation of any provision of this chapter, the Village may enforce the chapter by criminal or civil proceedings, or by any other remedy provided for under G.S. 160A-175 and G.S. 14-4 or successor provisions or as otherwise specifically set forth in this chapter.
- (b) Written notice of a violation may be provided to the violator by personal service or first class mail. When first class mail is sent, receipt shall be deemed to occur on the third day after the date of the postmark.
- (c) Upon notification of a violation as provided for in subsection (b) of this section, each day's continuing violation shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.
- (d) Upon the violation of any provision of this chapter, the violator shall be subject to a civil penalty in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), to be recovered by the Village in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within five (5) business days after the violator has been cited for violation of this chapter.
- (e) In addition to the foregoing remedies, the provisions of this chapter may be enforced by the Village by injunctive relief or other appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) The provisions of this chapter may also be enforced by an order of abatement.

(g) The criminal fine imposed for the violation of any provision of this chapter shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the first violation and One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each subsequent violation.

## **VI. Public Comment**

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment on the provisions of the water shortage response plan. First, a draft plan will be available at Village Hall for customers to view. All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by Village of Bald Head Island Mayor and Council.

## **VII. Variance Protocols**

Not applicable

## **VIII. Effectiveness**

The effectiveness of the Bald Head Island water shortage response plan will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total number of violation citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's seasonal data.

## **IX. Revision**

The water shortage response plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances affecting water supply and demand, following implementation of emergency restrictions, and at a minimum of every five years in conjunction with the updating of our Local Water Supply Plan.