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**EXISTING TOWN CODE FOR
WATER SHORTAGE REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE X. WATER SHORTAGE
REGULATIONS**

**Sec. 11-101. Water shortage deemed in light
of reserve water supply.**

A water shortage may be declared to exist when the reserve supply available through the facilities of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority shall have reached the point where the reserve supply has been so reduced that the citizens cannot be supplied with water to protect their health and safety without curtailing substantially the water demand.

(Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

Sec. 11-102. Proclamation of water shortage.

In the event of a water shortage in any of the five (5) degrees of severity hereinafter set forth in the town water supply threatening the health and safety of the citizens of the town, the mayor of the Town of Chapel Hill is authorized, empowered, and directed to issue a public proclamation declaring to all persons the existence of such state and the severity thereof, and in order to more effectively protect the health and safety of the people within the Town of Chapel Hill, to place in effect the restrictive provisions hereinafter authorized.

(Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

**Sec. 11-103. Compliance required in the
event of shortage.**

In the event the mayor issues any such proclamation described in section 11-102, then and in that event it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, to use or permit the use of water from the water system within the Town of Chapel Hill supplied through the facilities of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority for any of the purposes hereinafter set forth until such time as this article be amended or repealed, or until the mayor, by public proclamation, has declared certain provisions no longer in effect. In exercising this discretionary authority, consideration shall be given to: water levels of available sources of

supply; available/usable shortage on hand; drawdown rates; the projected supply capability; outlook for precipitation; daily water use patterns; and availability of water from other sources.

In light of the many benefits that can be derived by conserving water, all residents, businesses and institutions in the community should follow water conservation practices, regardless of the time of year or whether or not a water shortage exists. Water conservation should be followed during all phases of construction related activities. Where appropriate, water needed should be obtained from supplemental sources and non-essential construction-related activities which require water should be delayed until such time as the water emergency has ended. (Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

Sec. 11-104. Restrictions applicable various water levels at University Lake.

The severity of the water shortage shall be determined by the level of University Lake, and the restrictive measures in effect at each stage are as follows:

(a) In the event the water level of University Lake declines to a level of three hundred forty-seven (347) feet above mean sea level (twenty-four (24) inches below full) a "Stage I Water Shortage Alert" may be declared in effect, and the following voluntary water restrictions imposed:

- (1) An extensive publicity campaign will be initiated using public media and specialized methods to inform the public of an impending water shortage.
- (2) Residential conservation measures will be encouraged and recommended including the following:
 - a. Use shower for bathing rather than bathtub and limit shower to no more than four (4) minutes.
 - b. Limit flushing of toilets by multiple usage.
 - c. Do not leave faucets running while shaving or rinsing dishes.

- d. Limit use of clothes washers and dishwashers and when used, operate fully loaded.
- e. Limit lawn watering to that which is necessary for plants to survive.
- f. Water shrubbery the minimum required, reusing household water when possible.
- g. Limit car washing to the minimum.
- h. Do not wash down outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, etc.
- i. Install water flow restrictive devices in shower heads.
- j. Use disposable and biodegradable dishes.
- k. Install water saving devices such as bricks, plastic bottles or commercial units in toilet tanks.
- l. Limit hours of operation of water-cooled air conditioners.

- (3) It is recommended that water supply line pressure reducing valves be set to the minimum necessary for effective operations of fixtures and equipment.
- (4) Conservation in public buildings, institutions, dormitories, etc. is encouraged by reducing pressure at plumbing fixtures, by installation of restricting devices and shutting down on water flow control devices, and by only periodic flushing of urinals.
- (5) All residents, businesses and institutions are requested to temporarily delay new landscape work until the water shortage has ended.
- (6) Local governing bodies will utilize untreated or reclaimed water for street washing, landscape irrigation, and other appropriate purposes to the extent practical and will implement in their facilities the water

conservation measures required under a "Stage II Warning" of the article.

(b) In the event the water level of University Lake declines to the level of three hundred forty-six (346) feet above mean sea level (thirty-six (36) inches below full), a "Stage II Water Shortage Warning" may be declared in effect, and in addition to the restrictions heretofore imposed, the following moderate mandatory water restrictions shall be in effect. It shall be unlawful to use water from the public water system supplied by Orange Water and Sewer Authority for the following purposes:

(1) To water lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flower and vegetable gardens except as follows:

Customers located to the south of the centerline of NC 54 West, Main Street in Carrboro, Franklin Street, and US^{1 1/2}/₅₀₁ Boulevard may water lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flower and vegetable gardens on Saturday morning between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Customers located to the north of the centerline of NC 54 West, Main Street in Carrboro, Franklin Street, and US^{1 1/2}/₅₀₁ Boulevard may water lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flower and vegetable gardens on Sunday morning between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Such watering is to be done by hand-held hose or container or drip irrigation system.

(2) To fill newly constructed swimming and/or wading pools or refill swimming and/or wading pools which have been drained. A minimal amount of water may be added to maintain continued operation of pools which are in operation at the time the provisions of a "Stage II Warning" are placed into effect.

(3) To operate water-cooled air conditioners or other equipment that does not recycle cooling water, except when health and safety are adversely affected.

(4) To wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, or any other type of mobile equipment, including commercial washing.

(5) To wash down outside areas such as streets, driveways, service station aprons, parking lots, office buildings, exteriors or existing or newly constructed homes or apartments, sidewalks, or patios, or to use water for other similar purposes.

(6) To operate or introduce water into any ornamental fountain pool or pond or other structure making similar use of water.

(7) To serve drinking water in restaurants, cafeterias, or other food establishment, except upon request.

(8) To use water from public or private fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire suppression or other public emergency.

(9) To use water for dust control or compaction.

(10) To use water for any unnecessary purpose or to intentionally waste water.

The owner or occupant of any land or building which receives water from Orange Water and Sewer Authority and that also utilizes water from a well or supply other than that of Orange Water and Sewer Authority shall post and maintain in a prominent place thereon a sign furnished by Orange Water and Sewer Authority giving public notice to the use of the well or other source of supply.

(c) In the event the lake level of University Lake declines to the level of three hundred forty-four and five-tenths (344.5) feet above mean sea level (fifty-four (54) inches

below full), a "Stage III Water Shortage Danger" may be declared to exist, and in addition to the restrictions heretofore imposed, the following severe mandatory water restrictions shall be in effect. It shall be unlawful:

- (1) To water or sprinkle any lawn.
- (2) To water any vegetable garden or ornamental shrubs except during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Such watering is only to be done by handheld hose or container or drip irrigation system.
- (3) To make any nonessential use of water for commercial or public use, and the use of single service plates and utensils is encouraged and recommended in restaurants.

(d) In the event the level of University Lake declines to the level of three hundred forty-three (343) feet above mean sea level (seventy-two (72) inches below full), a "Stage IV Water Shortage Emergency" may be declared to exist and in addition to the restrictions heretofore imposed, the following stringent mandatory water restrictions shall be in effect. It shall be unlawful:

- (1) To use water outside a structure for any use other than an emergency use involving fire.
- (2) To operate an evaporative air conditioning unit which recycles water except during the operating hours of the business.
- (3) To introduce water into any swimming pool.

(e) In the event the level of University Lake declines to the level of three hundred forty-one (341) feet above mean sea level (ninety-six (96) inches below full), a "Stage V Water Shortage Crisis" may be declared in effect, and a system of water rationing shall be put in effect in addition to all previously imposed restrictions. In the event of water rationing in which water will be supplied in the minimal quantities

required for the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens in accordance with a program determined by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority:

- (1) It shall be unlawful to fail to act in accordance therewith or use water in any manner or attempt to evade or avoid such water rationing restrictions.
- (2) Fire protection will be maintained, but where possible tank trucks shall use raw water.

(Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

Sec. 11-105. Penalties.

Any violations of the provisions of the article shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) or imprisonment not exceeding thirty (30) days as provided by General Statute Section 14-4 and in addition thereto such violation may be enjoined and restrained as provided in General Statute Section 160A-175.

(Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

Sec. 11-106. Injunctive remedies.

Pursuant to the provisions of General Statute Section 160A-193, the injunctive remedies therein provided shall be applicable for the summary abatement or remedying of appropriate conditions dangerous or prejudicial to the public health both within the town limits of the Town of Chapel Hill and within one mile thereof and the expense thereof assessed as therein provided.

(Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

Sec. 11-107. Severability.

If any section, subdivision, clause, or provision of the article shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to such section, subdivision, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this article may be declared valid and effective.

(Ord. No. O-84-70, § 1, 10-22-84)

Secs. 11-108—11-110. Reserved.