



# PHASED DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

*Resolution No. 5-2026*

*April 6, 2026*

## INTRODUCTION

The goal of this Drought Response Plan is to clearly communicate the actions and steps the City may need to employ, with proper justification, to maintain the health, safety and economic vitality of the community to the extent possible in the face of water shortages. This Drought Response Plan is designed to optimize the City's response under certain emergent conditions and to ensure the City is operating responsibly to best maximize available water supplies, reduce water use, and provide levels of conservation for the City of Florence and otherwise impacted communities during drought.

By means of explanation, these potential measures aimed at water conservation under certain extreme conditions are triggered by significant priority water calls on the Arkansas River, signaling worsening drought conditions. Priority water calls by water users, with senior water rights by law, curtail use by water users with less senior rights. The following levels of classification and related measures are intended to assist the City of Florence in making decisions throughout the course of a drought. The City of Florence may adjust or refine the response based on actual drought conditions, fire district restrictions, or other immediate or consequential considerations.

### ***Enforcement***

If implemented by resolution of the City Council of Florence, the violation of Level I, II, III and IV mandatory restrictions and regulations may be enforced by prosecution in Municipal Court and/or by disconnection of water service. See Sections 13.04.170, 13.04.240 and or 13.04.420. Because the primary goals of this policy are to educate water users on conservation measures and to promote voluntary conservation, mandatory restrictions will be imposed only when necessary and upon priority water calls. Sanctions are available to deter potential violation, and as a last resort, to punish actual violators who have received prior warning. This policy and above referenced ordinances require that notice be given to violators before sanctions, including fines for convictions in municipal court, and/or disconnection of water service, are available for enforcement purposes.

### ***Normal Operating Conditions***

Conditions with regard to water are normal, adequate and acceptable regarding quantity and quality of water sources, treatment or distribution. Customers should always use water wisely, and should seek a 20% reduction in use even when conditions are normal. Customers may refer to the conservation tips outlined in Level I.

***Any natural disaster adversely affecting the City of Florence's water supply and/or delivery capacity may trigger any phase or water rate listed above, including Phase IV on discovery of said disaster, by the Florence City Manager.***

## **DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN: LEVEL I**

**Automatically triggered by a March 5, 1884, priority water call on the Coal Creek Pipe Water Right.**

### ***Conservation Measures***

Water lawns only when needed, usually every two days during hot summer months in the early morning hours to reduce loss from evaporation.

Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn and shrubs-not paved areas. Minimize grass in your lawn. Replace with low water use landscaping. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn.

Check for dripping faucets, leaky pipes, running commodes and swamp coolers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you will waste 3,100 gallons of water per year. Install low-flow showerheads, low flow commodes and other water saving devices.

Run only full loads when washing clothes or using a dishwasher.

Do not run water when brushing your teeth or shaving. Use a cup to rinse.

Thaw food in the refrigerator, and not under running water.

## DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN: LEVEL II

**Automatically triggered by a May 15, 1874, priority water call on a Rocky Ford water right. This water call of 111 cubic feet per second of water is a significant call on the Arkansas River.**

Conditions exist as outlined in Level I, and in addition, where a possible or existing shortage is determined. Both Level I and Level II levels are mandatory, with the following applicable additions.

### *Conservation Measures*

Water your lawn/landscape only on designated watering days before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. for up to three hours, cumulatively, per day only. Those with even numbered addresses may water only on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Those with odd numbered addresses may water only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Watering on Monday is not allowed. Do not allow water to pool or flow onto the pavement. Repair any broken sprinkler heads.

Wash vehicles, trailers, boats and other equipment only on designed water days and only with a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle, or with a bucket.

Landscape irrigation may be done with a hand-held hose or bucket, which is allowed on your approved days for trees, shrubs, planting beds and planters.

Last Digit of House Number	Water Days
1,3,5,7,9	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
0,2,4,6,8	Sunday, Wednesday, Friday

Restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias or other public places where food is served are required to post notice of the existence of a declared shortage.

No hose washing of sidewalks, walkways, patios, driveways, parking areas or other impervious surfaces, except to eliminate conditions that pose a threat to public health or safety.

### *Financial Measures*

#### *Utility Bill*

To encourage conservation during drought periods, the City will maintain the current minimum monthly water usage allowance of 3,500 gallons at a base rate of \$13.94. Any water used above the minimum allotment will be billed at a 20% rate increase during designated drought stages. This approach helps ensure responsible water use while keeping essential household needs affordable. The more a household reduces usage below or near the minimum allotment, the less impact the drought surcharge will have on their monthly bill.

Bulk water customers and commercial bulk water customers will be required to adopt the same water-use restrictions as customers of the City of Florence. For bulk water station users and hydrant users, the standard rate of \$1.50 per 100 gallons will be adjusted. During declared drought stage, any water drawn will be billed at a 20% increased rate. This means that while essential and reasonable use remains affordable, high-volume discretionary use will incur higher costs during drought conditions to support responsible water management.

Outside bulk water users will be limited to essential domestic use only. If conditions warrant, customers may be completely prohibited from using the bulk water system.

Raw and treated water hydrant uses will be subject to drought pricing or other methods to reduce water consumption outside of Florence.

To promote fairness, consistency, and responsible water stewardship during periods of drought, conservation orders, or heightened supply limitations, the City of Florence will apply a standardized method for calculating allowable water usage for all consecutive and contractual water service customers. Allowable usage will be determined based on the number of active service taps rather than on total contractual allocation amounts, ensuring that each system's permitted consumption reflects its actual customer base.

**Water Rates- City of Florence Utility Customers**

	<b>Debt</b>	<b>Gallons</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Excess Water Rate</b>
Inside City User	\$21.77	3,500	\$13.94	20% Increase
Outside City User	\$21.77	5,000	\$23.49	20% Increase

**Water Rates- City of Florence Bulk Station/ Hydrant Meter Users**

	<b>Debt</b>	<b>Per 100 Gallons</b>	<b>Drought Water Rate Per 100 Gallons</b>
Bulk Station	\$0	\$1.50	20% Increase
Hydrant Meters	\$0	\$1.50	20% Increase

**Water Rates – City of Florence Consecutive Water Systems (Contractual Water Services)**

Active Taps/Connections		Base Gallons		Total Base Gallons Allowed				
116	X	3,500	=	406,000				
Total Gallons Used		Total Base Gallons Allowed		Excess Gallons Used				
592,000	-	406,000	=	186,000				
Excess Gallons Used		100 Gallons		Base Excess Rate		Rate Increase		Total Cost of Excess Use
186,000	÷	100	X	\$1.50	X	1.2	=	\$3,348.00

Example: 116 taps X 3500 gal = 406,000 gallons  
 592,000 gallons used - 406,000 base gallons = 186,000 gallons in excess use  
 186,000 ÷ 100 X \$1.50 X 1.2 = \$3,348.00 for excess use

Once a drought level has been officially declared by the City, the corresponding drought billing rate will remain in effect for the entirety of that billing cycle, regardless of whether conditions change before the next cycle begins. This ensures consistent, predictable billing and allows all rate users to clearly understand the rates applied during each monthly period.

*Requirements of Level II may be modified at anytime to meet possible or existing conditions with*

*additional notice to citizens as soon as possible.*

## **DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN: LEVEL III**

**Automatically triggered by a December 30, 1863, Canon City Water Works priority call.**

Conservation measures exist as outlined in Level I, and Level II, and in addition, where a possible or existing shortage is determined. Both Level I and Level II restrictions usage requirements are mandatory, with the following applicable additions.

### ***Conservation Measures***

Lawns, trees, and shrubs may be watered by a hand-held hose or low-volume non-spray irrigation, no more than once per week on scheduled days. No new features allowed.

No watering of golf courses. Golf course greens and tee boxes may be watered one day a week. Per Level II restrictions.

No watering of parks and cemeteries.

Single-family residential pools and commercial pools shall not be filled or refilled.

Customers are prohibited from operating any existing outdoor fountain or waterfall that sprays water in the air. No new features allowed.

At-home car washing is not allowed. Commercial car washes must be certified to recycle water. Street cleaning will obtain water from designated locations only.

Restaurants will serve water only upon request.

Raw water hydrant usage for construction and road dust suppressant purposes ceased. Raw and treated water hydrant permits are cancelled.

### ***Financial Measures***

#### ***Utility Bill***

To encourage conservation during drought periods, the City will maintain the current minimum monthly water usage allowance of 3,500 gallons at a base rate of \$13.94. Any water used above the minimum allotment will be billed at a doubled rate during designated drought stages. This approach helps ensure responsible water use while keeping essential household needs affordable. The more a household reduces usage below or near the minimum allotment, the less impact the drought surcharge will have on their monthly bill.

Bulk water customers and commercial bulk water customers will be required to adopt the same water-use restrictions as customers of the City of Florence. For bulk water station users, the standard rate of \$1.50 per 100 gallons will be adjusted. During declared drought stage, any water drawn will be billed at a doubled rate. This means that while essential and reasonable use remains affordable, high-volume discretionary use will incur higher costs during drought conditions to support responsible water management.

Outside bulk water users will be limited to essential domestic use only. If conditions warrant, customers may be completely prohibited from using the bulk water system.

Raw water hydrant usage for construction and road dust suppressant purposes ceased entirely.

Raw and treated water hydrant permits are cancelled.

To promote fairness, consistency, and responsible water stewardship during periods of drought, conservation orders, or heightened supply limitations, the City of Florence will apply a standardized method for calculating allowable water usage for all consecutive and contractual water service customers. Allowable usage will be determined based on the number of active service taps rather than on total contractual allocation amounts, ensuring that each system's permitted consumption reflects its actual customer base.

**Water Rates- City of Florence Customers**

	<b>Debt</b>	<b>Gallons</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Excess Water Rate</b>
Inside City User	\$21.77	3,500	\$13.94	100% Increase
Outside City User	\$21.77	5,000	\$23.49	100% Increase

**Water Rates- City of Florence Bulk Station/ Hydrant Meter Users**

	<b>Debt</b>	<b>Per 100 Gallons</b>	<b>Drought Water Rate Per 100 Gallons</b>
Bulk Station	\$0	\$1.50	100% Increase
Hydrant Meters	CANCELED	CANCELED	CANCELED

**Water Rates- City of Florence Consecutive Water Systems (Contractual Water Services)**

Active Taps/Connections		Base Gallons	=	Total Base Gallons Allowed				
116	X	3,500	=	406,000				
Total Gallons Used		Total Base Gallons Allowed		Excess Gallons Used				
592,000	-	406,000	=	186,000				
Excess Gallons Used		100 Gallons		Base Excess Rate		Rate Increase		Total Cost of Excess Use
186,000	÷	100	X	\$1.50	X	2	=	\$5,580.00

Example: 116 taps X 3500 gal = 406,000 gallons

592,000 gallons used - 406,000 base gallons = 186,000 gallons in excess use

186,000 ÷ 100 X \$1.50 X 2 = \$5,580.00 for excess use

Once a drought level has been officially declared by the City, the corresponding drought billing rate will remain in effect for the entirety of that billing cycle, regardless of whether conditions change before the next cycle begins. This ensures consistent, predictable billing and allows all rate users to clearly understand the rates applied during each monthly period.

*Requirements of Level III may be modified at any time to meet possible or existing conditions.*

## DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN: LEVEL IV

Automatically triggered by a November 30, 1861 Union Ditch priority water call. The Union Ditch provides the City of Florence with almost all of its water right. While this call has never been made, such a call would require Florence to rely upon reservoir storage. Such a call likely would be of short duration, because the Union Ditch water right is the senior municipal water right on the Arkansas River and the State Engineer would be releasing stored water for municipalities.

Conditions exist as outlined in Level I, Level II, Level III, and in addition, where a possible or existing shortage is determined. All levels are mandatory, with the following applicable additions.

### Conservation Measures

Bulk water station closed.

No outdoor water use.

City pool is closed.

Other restrictions as necessary.

### Financial Measures

#### Utility Bill

To encourage conservation during drought periods, the City will maintain the current minimum monthly water usage allowance of 3,500 gallons at a base rate of \$13.94. Any water used above the minimum allotment will be billed at a tripled rate during designated drought stages. This approach helps ensure responsible water use while keeping essential household needs affordable. The more a household reduces usage below or near the minimum allotment, the less impact the drought surcharge will have on their monthly bill.

To promote fairness, consistency, and responsible water stewardship during periods of drought, conservation orders, or heightened supply limitations, the City of Florence will apply a standardized method for calculating allowable water usage for all consecutive and contractual water service customers. Allowable usage will be determined based on the number of active service taps rather than on total contractual allocation amounts, ensuring that each system's permitted consumption reflects its actual customer base.

#### Water Rates- City of Florence Customers

	Debt	Gallons	Minimum	Excess Water Rate
Inside City User	\$21.77	3,500	\$13.94	200% Increase
Outside City User	\$21.77	5,000	\$23.49	200% Increase

#### Water Rates- City of Florence Bulk Station/ Hydrant Meter Users

	Debt	Per 100 Gallons	Drought Water Rate Per 100 Gallons
Bulk Station	CANCELED	CANCELED	CANCELED
Hydrant Meters	CANCELED	CANCELED	CANCELED

Water Rates – City of Florence Consecutive Water Systems (Contractual Water Services)

Active Taps/Connections		Base Gallons		Total Base Gallons Allowed				
116	X	3,500	=	406,000				
Total Gallons Used		Total Base Gallons Allowed		Excess Gallons Used				
592,000	-	406,000	=	186,000				
Excess Gallons Used		100 Gallons		Base Excess Rate		Rate Increase		Total Cost of Excess Use
186,000	÷	100	X	\$1.50	X	3	=	\$8,370.00

Example: 116 taps X 3500 gal = 406,000 gallons

592,000 gallons used - 406,000 base gallons = 186,000 gallons in excess use

186,000 ÷ 100 X \$1.50 X 3 = \$8,370.00 for excess use

Once a drought level has been officially declared by the City, the corresponding drought billing rate will remain in effect for the entirety of that billing cycle, regardless of whether conditions change before the next cycle begins. This ensures consistent, predictable billing and allows all rate users to clearly understand the rates applied during each monthly period.

*Requirements of Level IV may be modified at any time to meet possible or existing conditions.*