

**Water Shortage Response Plan  
Town of Valdese, North Carolina  
August 29, 2023  
Amended May 11, 2026**

The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand and supplement existing drinking water supplies whenever existing water supply sources are inadequate to meet current demands for potable water.

**I. Authorization**

The Valdese Town Manager shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his or absence, the Utility Director will assume this role.

Valdese Town Manager  
Phone: (828) 879-2116

Water Plant Superintendent  
Phone: (828) 874-6788

**II. Notification**

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and customers of a water shortage declaration: employee e-mail announcements, notices at municipal buildings, notices in water bills and on the Town of Valdese website homepage. Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through PSA announcements on local radio and cable stations, and on the Town of Valdese website. Declaration of emergency water restrictions or water rationing will be communicated to all customers by telephone through use of reverse 911.

**III. Levels of Response (Taken from the Catawba LIP)**

Five levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The five levels of water shortage response are: voluntary reductions, mandatory reductions I and II, emergency reductions and water rationing. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follow below.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Voluntary Reductions	All water users except Commercial and Industrial 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.
2	Mandatory Reductions I	All water users except Commercial and Industrial must abide with required water use reduction and efficiency measures; penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist.
3	Mandatory Reductions II	Same as in Stage 2
4	Emergency Reductions	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity.
5	Water Rationing	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allocated to preserve human health and environmental integrity.

In Stage 1, Voluntary Reductions, all water users will be asked to reduce their normal water use by 5%. Customer education and outreach programs will encourage water conservation and efficiency measures including: irrigating landscapes at a minimum of two days per week, a maximum of one inch per week; preventing water waste, runoff and watering impervious surfaces; reduction of residential vehicle washing; washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers; using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identifying and repairing all water leaks.

In Stage 2, Mandatory Reductions I, all customers are expected to reduce their water use by 10% in comparison to their previous month's water bill. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: irrigation is limited to a half inch per week between 8PM and 8AM two day a week; filling temporary and permanent swimming pools is prohibited; outdoor use of water for washing impervious surfaces is prohibited; residential vehicle washing is prohibited; all testing and training purposes requiring drinking water (e.g. fire protection) is limited.

In Stage 3, Mandatory Reductions II, customers must continue actions from all previous stages and further reduce water use by 20% compared to their previous month's water bill. Limit lawn and landscape irrigation to no more than one day a week. Prioritize and meet with commercial and industrial large water customers and meet to discuss strategies for water reduction measures including development of an activity schedule and contingency plans.

In Stage 4, Emergency Reductions, customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water use by 25% compared to their previous month's water bill. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is

implemented. Prioritize and meet with commercial and industrial large water customers and meet to discuss strategies for water reduction measures including development of an activity schedule and contingency plans. Prepare to implement Emergency Plan.

The goal of Stage 5, Water Rationing, is to provide drinking water to protect public health (e.g. residences, residential health care facilities and correctional facilities). In Stage 5, all customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection. Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use and pickup locations for distributing potable water will be announced according to Valdese's Emergency Response Plan.

#### IV. Triggers

The water source for Valdese is Lake Rhodhiss, located in the Catawba River Basin. The triggers are set by the Catawba LIP. These triggers are:

USGS Streamflow Trigger- based on a four month rolling average.

Drought Monitor- use weekly county data to arrive at a composite Drought Monitor Condition for the entire basin (Basin 25% Method).

Groundwater Well Levels-use in advisory role only

Standardized Precipitation Index- used as a guide because of volatile data.

Storage Index- based on full pond being at 100% and stage 4 being at 40% of full pond.

Triggers are routinely checked by the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group.

#### 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 monitoring and 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 Town of Valdese utility department and police personnel. Violators may be reported to the Town's phone line or the e-mail contact listed on the Town's website. Citations are

assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

<b>Water Shortage Level</b>	<b>First Violation</b>	<b>Second Violation</b>	<b>Third Violation</b>
Voluntary Reductions	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mandatory Reductions (Stages 2 and 3)	Warning	\$250	Discontinuation of Service
Emergency Reductions	\$250	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service
Water Rationing	\$500	Discontinuation of Service	Discontinuation of Service

#### 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 Town Hall for customers to view. A notice will be included in customer water bill notifying them of such. Also a draft plan will be published on the Town of Valdese website. A public hearing will be scheduled with notice printed in all customer water bills to collect comments on the draft. All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by Valdese’s Town Council.

#### VII. Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the Town of Valdese website and Town Hall. All applications must be submitted to the Town Hall for review by the Town Manager or his or her designee. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within two weeks of submittal after careful consideration of the following criteria: impact on water demand, expected duration, alternative source options, social and economic importance, purpose (i.e. necessary use of drinking water) and the prevention of structural damage.

#### VIII. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Valdese 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. Further, a water shortage response planning work group will review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to recommend any necessary improvements to the plan to Valdese's Town Council. The Town of Valdese Manager is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.