

Georgetown Divide Recreation District

Today is May 1st, 2015
It is a fantastic day!



Board Members

Aloha Adams
Cool area
Kim Taylor
Greenwood area
Eric Clark
Georgetown area
Ken Spencer/
Garden Valley,
Kelsey area
Kris Syversen
Pilot Hill area

Staff

Carl Clark
General Manager
Jerry Stinson
Maintenance
Supervisor
Jayne Captein
Recreation
Coordinator
Liz Dowell
Office Assistant
Jacqui Brunton
Community Services
Supervisor
Mike Tompkins
Maintenance
Worker II

State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EMERGENCY RULEMAKING ON GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON SEVERE DROUGHT

Dear Clerk of the Board:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the proposed water usage regulations. Georgetown Divide Recreation District (GDRD) is located in rural north El Dorado County. Our elected Board members, residents, community partners, and local governing agencies have worked hard to manage our area's water supply. We realize that conservation is an important tool during this drought; and, I would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns.

Our agency delivers for the recreational needs of our community by providing parks that allow our residents a place to congregate and play. Over the past 27 years, our park system has been established through local community efforts, and state grant funding, which have allowed us to develop over 25 acres of active park and 100 acres of passive space for our residents. Georgetown Recreation District operates 6 park sites and provides service to a population of over 13,500 people in our 880 square mile district. We have established a commitment to provide an increased sense of lifelong enjoyment, and enhance the quality of life in our community.

Under the current restrictions, GDRD would only be allowed to water twice a week in the evening hours. We are unable to complete the minimum necessary irrigation at many of our facilities in the allotted timeframe, and our extensive experience is that water savings is realized by applying the right amount of water at the right time to maintain plant health and avoid wasteful practices such as unneeded deep watering and/or run off. The purpose of the irrigation system is to support the health and viability of the managed landscape by delivering the correct amount of supplemental water in the absence of natural precipitation. Our irrigation and horticultural knowledge comes from our extensive training, experience and micro-climate monitoring of our landscape system. Yes, this is a science to us, and our team of professionals demonstrates responsible stewardship of water resources. This is built into our design features of our irrigation systems. Significant investment has been made to incorporate these "Best Management Practices" to irrigate only the amount of water required for sustainable plant life.

We are requesting that turf used for public recreational spaces, such as our parks, be made exempt from the two day per week watering requirement. Without this provision much of our existing recreation turf would become stressed and damaged to the point requiring replacement, exacting a heavy financial cost to our agency. In addition, one can only imagine the potential detriment to the health and wellbeing of the children and adults in our community if the turfed areas of our

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parks are lost. It would be years before our agency would be able to replace these turfed areas, if at all, when taking into consideration that newly installed turf requires even more water than established turf. We have halted a major park expansion due to the drought that we were using recycled water from our Play Spray feature in the park.

We are in support of our residents' continued conservation. Since we live in a small community, many of our residents have already reduced their landscaping to the point that our facilities are the community's backyard or access to turf. With the parks and facilities we operate, our fiscal responsibility is to already be water conscious; consequently, we take water conservation seriously. This is reflected in our agency's development of strict specifications and standards and our commitment to conservation by:

- Using irrigation controllers monitored by staff that adjusts irrigation schedules based on factors such as: rainfall events, and seasonal weather patterns. This is the heart of determining and delivering the correct amount of water to preserve plant health and maximize efficiency and effectiveness.
- Increased irrigation inspections to look for inefficient water use/leaks, thereby eliminating irrigation runoff or wasteful activities, as well as carefully examining activities that will affect water use efficiency.
- Implementation of low-water-use plants and landscaping.
- Retrofitting existing potable water systems to recycled water as we mentioned before.

Through our water use stewardship, we have been able to reduce our potable water usage significantly in the past two years, and our commitment has been to apply the least amount of water to meet the minimum plant requirements. Further reductions based on a limit on how many days we can water will most certainly be devastating to our facilities.

Please remember the impact parks and recreational facilities have had on each of you, your families and communities. **Parks are a vital service to communities throughout California and every effort should be taken to preserve them for the betterment of all Californians.**

Georgetown Divide Recreation District respectfully requests that you keep these facts in mind as you consider your decisions may impact communities throughout the state.

Yours in Community Service

GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RECREATION DISTRICT



Carl Clark, General Manager