

Press Release

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City of Kelso Announces Water Restrictions for Utility Customers

Kelso, WA – July 13, 2018

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The City of Kelso collects its water by means of a sub-surface system called a Ranney collector. Water is extracted from beneath the bed of the Cowlitz River. Production capability of the collector is directly dependent on the level and flow volume of the Cowlitz River.

The dry spring season, coupled with reduced discharges from the Riffe and Mayfield Dams, have resulted in lower than normal flows in the Cowlitz River. These conditions are affecting the output capability of our Ranney collector. If these conditions continue, the Kelso system may reach a point where adequate amounts of water cannot be produced to fully meet utility customer demand.

To address this potential shortage, the City of Kelso is requesting citizens to implement voluntary water use restrictions effective immediately. The restrictions will remain in place for a minimum of 30 days and no certain end can be identified at this time. In the event water conservation efforts are not adequate, the City has the ability to purchase and obtain water from the City of Longview, by agreement.

The City is asking that citizens limit yard watering to 30 minutes and adopt the following schedule.

- Even numbered addresses water on even days.
- Odd numbered addresses water on odd days.

We also ask that citizens limit their vehicle washing to the same schedule.

Other recommended water conservation measures include:

- Limit showers to 5 minutes
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth
- Limit the cycles in the dishwasher and clothes washer by operating them only with full loads

Also effective immediately, the Catlin Rotary Spray Park operating hours have been changed to 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM to reduce water consumption

The City of Kelso appreciates every customer's participation. It remains the City's hope that this is a temporary condition and the restrictions will remain voluntary. Please contact the City's Engineering Division at 360-423-6590 with any questions regarding this matter.

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