

Water Feature Operation during Drought

DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS ON WATER FEATURES

During Drought Watch, Drought Alert, and Drought Emergency, water features must be turned off.

Some water features are exempt and may be operated during Drought Watch and Drought Alert, such as indoor fountains, certain sized residential features, and water features that serve as aeration devices for storage ponds. A complete list of exemptions is listed in Title 30.64.070.

If you do not meet any of the exemptions and still want to operate your water feature, the County has developed an Administrative Design Review process to allow water feature use during Drought Watch and Drought Alert.

ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

You must demonstrate that the amount of turf within the property will be reduced by 50 square feet for each square foot of surface area of the water feature. The turf must be replaced with xeriscaping, which should provide at least 50% plant cover of the landscapable area at maturity.

Xeriscaping is a low-water use landscape that includes colorful flowers, plants and trees with limited turf.

If the property has none or not enough non-functional turf to meet the 50:1 ratio, you must pay a fee of \$10 per square foot of surface area of the fountain for the proportion of turf area not available for conversion. All non-functional turf must be

removed before the fee option can be used. This fee is paid to the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Water Smart Landscape program. You can also consider removing functional turf.

Functional turf means a turf area designed or suitable for recreational purposes.

Non-functional turf means turf within medians, streetscapes, and parking lots; turf for required perimeter landscaping; and turf designed and suitable only for aesthetic purposes.

There Are Five Steps To This Process:

Step One:

You must fill out a Turf Reduction/Fountain Fee Form, which can be obtained from Clark County's Division of Current Planning or at the Clark County website,

http://www.co.clark.nv.us/development_services/forms_index.htm. This form will help you to determine how much turf you need to remove and/or how much your fee to the Water Smart Landscape program will be. This form must be reviewed and signed by Clark County staff at the Current Planning front counter.

Step Two:

You must fill out an Administrative Design Review Application, Title 30 form, which can be obtained from Clark County's Division of Current Planning or at the website listed above. There is a \$300 Fee for this application. Four copies of the landscape plan, stamped by a licensed professional, showing the amount of turf to be removed and the surface area of the water feature must accompany this application. See Title 30.16.240 for Document Submittal Requirements.

If you must pay a fee to the Water Smart Landscape program, as determined from the Turf Reduction/Fountain Fee Form, a receipt from the Southern Nevada Water Authority must accompany the application.

Example Scenario:

Your property has a 300 square foot water feature that you wish to operate.

You must remove 50 square feet of turf for every 1 foot of water feature surface area. Thus, you must remove 15,000 square feet of turf (15,000:300).

Your property has 10,000 square feet of non-functional turf.

You must remove the entire 10,000 square feet of non-functional turf. But you have 5,000 square feet still needed to meet the requirement.

You then have the option of removing functional turf, up to 5,000 square feet or paying a \$10 per square foot fee for the 5,000 square feet needed to fulfill your requirement.

If you wish to remove more turf than the 15,000 square feet required, that additional turf would be eligible for the Water Smart Landscape program.

Step Three:

Call (702) 455-4314 to schedule an appointment to file the Administrative Design Review application. Applications will not be accepted over the front counter. A Notice of Final Action will be sent to you in the mail.

Step Four:

Remove the appropriate turf and replace with xeriscaping. You must post signs at each water feature under operation. Signs should be between four and sixteen square feet in size, and must state that the fountain is operating in conformance with Clark County drought restrictions under Title 30.64.070. These signs must be visible from any street from which the water feature is visible and must be maintained each year the fountain is operated during Drought Watch or Drought Alert.

Step Five:

Operation of the water feature is allowed once the nonfunctional turf has been removed, xeriscaping installed, and public notification signs are posted. A certificate of compliance from your landscape architect must be submitted to Clark County's Current Planning before your water feature can be turned on.

CONTINUED WATER FEATURE OPERATION

The Administrative Design Review is a one-time process for each property. You will be allowed to operate your water feature(s) for the remainder of the calendar year of approval. For each subsequent year of Drought Watch or Drought Alert, you must pay a \$200 fee to Southern Nevada Water Authority's Water Smart Landscape program by January 1st of the year during which the water feature will be operated. A copy of this receipt must be maintained and provided upon demand.

NOTE:

Administrative Design Review approval is only good for water feature operation during times of Drought Watch and Drought Alert. If a Drought Emergency is declared, those restrictions applicable to that level of drought apply. A Drought Emergency could be declared as soon as January 1, 2005. This means that even if you go through this Administrative Design Review process, you could be asked to turn your fountain off as soon as January 1, 2005.

Turf removed under the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Water Smart Landscape program is not eligible to be used in the 50:1 ratio for water feature operation. If you remove turf over the 50:1 requirement, that turf is eligible for the program.

For more information on Clark County's drought restrictions go to www.accessclarkcounty.com and click on the Drought link.

For more information on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Water Smart Landscape Program go to www.snwa.com or call (702) 258-SAVE (7283)