

CITY OF MOAB RESOLUTION #13-2025

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN, AS
PREPARED BY CITY OF MOAB STAFF.**

WHEREAS, the City of Moab adopts plans to guide decision-making and policy; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 73-10-32 requires public water systems with more than 500 connections to update a water conservation plan every five years, and the City of Moab's 2021 update included the development of a drought response plan; and

WHEREAS, Moab relies on wells and springs for its culinary water supply, and a Water Shortage Response Plan would help address short-term imbalances between supply and demand caused by events such as drought, equipment malfunctions, or distribution failures; and

WHEREAS, the Administration, Community Development, Utility Services, Public Works, and police Department collaborated to develop the Moab Water Shortage Response Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, following Public Hearing, reviewed and recommended adoption of Moab City Resolution #18-2025, which is now Moab City Resolution 13-2015, during a special meeting held December 1, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Moab City Council hereby approves Moab City Resolution #13-2025, adopting the Water Shortage Response Plan, as prepared by City of Moab staff as follows:

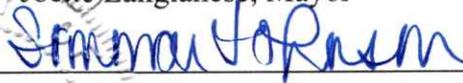
PASSED AND APPROVED in open Council by a majority vote of the Governing Body of Moab City Council this 9th day of December 2025.

SIGNED: _____

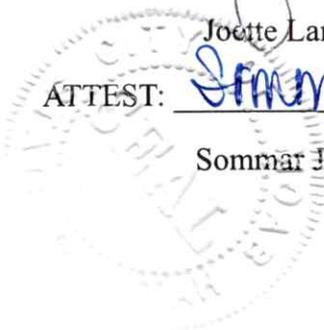


Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____



Sommar Johnson, Recorder



City of Moab Water Shortage Response Plan

December 2025



This plan establishes actions for water conservation during short-term shortages due to a system disruption, such as equipment malfunctions, distribution failure, or natural events, such as drought. It outlines five response stages, from Stage 1 (Normal) to Stage 5 (Emergency), which are triggered based on projected water supply levels relative to demand. At each stage, the plan specifies measures to reduce water use and maintain essential services within the City. Although water shortages are generally uncommon, this plan provides guidance to help the City respond effectively when they occur.

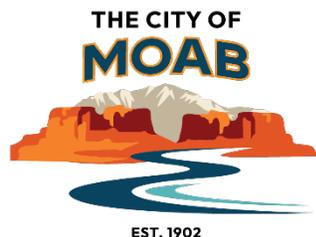


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1. PURPOSE

The City of Moab Utility Department provides culinary water to City residents. Though uncommon, water shortages may occur in the system due to disruption from equipment malfunctions, distribution failure, or natural events, such as drought.

The purpose of this plan is to conserve water and protect the integrity of the water supply, maintaining water for essential and safety purposes in a temporary shortage situation. The recommendations are not long-term solutions, which other City plans cover, such as the Water Conservation Plan. The recommendations in this plan are proportional reduction actions to reduce water use to the level of a temporary shortage. These actions apply to users of culinary water provided by Moab City. Grey water is unrestricted by this plan.

2. PRINCIPLES

The following principles have guided the development of this plan. In the case where the appropriate actions are unclear due to conflicting stakeholders or circumstances, the principles should guide the resolution of the conflict.

1. **Prioritize water for drinking, health, sanitation, and fire protection.** Water that preserves human health and safety takes precedence, followed by domestic animals.
2. **Stay within the available supply.** The actions within this plan correspond to a known, immediate, and ideally measurable, shortage in supply to meet demand.
3. **Maintain equity.** The water system is connected, so while some shortages may impact specific customers more, the response plan is aimed to serve all residents in the system.
4. **Preserve trees, shrubs, and perennials,** deprioritizing ornamental turfgrass and annuals. Trees and shrubs are a long-term investment that provide shade, storm water management, and other benefits. When water is available for vegetation, they are priorities.
5. **Collaboration is the preferred method for water reduction.** People know where water is most and least important to them. Communication, policy, rates, and other tools are preferable methods for voluntary water reductions before enforcement.

3. DEFINITIONS

Aesthetic uses refers to water used for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, waterfalls, reflecting pools, and water gardens except when used to preserve aquatic life.

All other non-food plants refers to water used for plants that are not lawns or used for food.

Common Area Lawn Watering refers to the irrigation of shared open spaces such as public and private parks, athletic fields, school yards, areas managed by HOAs, and golf courses.

Dust management refers to water distributed on surfaces to suppress dust.

Food-bearing plants refers to water used for plants that are used for human consumption.

Lodging laundry refers to water used to wash bedding, towels, and other linens associated with hosting guests.

Hydrant flushing refers to preventative maintenance that releases water at a high velocity from a fire hydrant to test the fire flow capacity and remove sediment.

Indoor excess refers to water used for indoor functions beyond the amount needed for the purpose, health, and safety. Indoor excesses could include:

- Neglecting to fix faucet, pipe, or evaporative cooling leaks;
- Running water continuously while brushing teeth, shaving, rinsing produce, or washing dishes;
- Taking long or frequent showers; and
- Running partially full dish and clothes washer loads.

Private Lawn Watering refers to the irrigation of unshared lawn areas for private use.

Misters, toys, and sprinklers refers to devices that require a near constant stream of water for casual cooling or recreational use. This could include but is not limited to misters, sprinklers, slides, and splash pads.

Response Stage refers to a step on a graduated scale of the water shortage intensity with corresponding measures.

Swimming pool filling refers to water used to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, hot tubs, or Jacuzzi-type pools.

Trigger refers to the threshold of the available water supply relative to demand. For example, supply meets demand exactly at 100%, so a trigger of 95% would indicate that supply is less than demand by 5%.

Vehicle or pavement washing refers to water used to wash a motor vehicle, trailer, other vehicle, walkway, driveway, parking lot, or other hard-surfaced area, including structures for purposes other than health requirements or fire protection.

4. INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF WATER SHORTAGE STAGES

The Utility Services Director or designee will monitor the supply, demand, and water system to identify potential shortages. When conditions warrant it, the Director or designee will recommend the initiation or termination of a Water Shortage Response Stage to the City Manager.

Initiation of Water Shortage Response Stage

The foreseeable meeting or exceeding a Response Stage Trigger will allow but not require the initiation of the corresponding Response Stage. Factors such as the season, weather, and availability of additional water supplies may influence the decision. The Director or designee may implement any stage of the plan to address the shortage without initiating prior Response Stages.

Termination of Water Shortage Response Stage

When the Director or designee determines that the trigger conditions have subsided, the Director or designee will recommend terminating the current stage and transitioning to the appropriate stage for the current water conditions to the City Manager.

5. WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE STAGES AND ACTIONS

The Utility Services Director or designee shall monitor water supply and demand conditions and determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. The calculation will be based on the following formula:

$$\text{Trigger} = \frac{\text{Total Water Supply}}{\text{Water Demand}} \times 100$$

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Supply (gal.)	111,734,400	102,124,200	114,608,400	114,551,000	123,319,400	118,644,000
Historic demand	26,488,667	25,819,500	30,972,167	49,304,500	68,561,333	79,887,500
Historic supply relative to demand	422%	396%	370%	232%	180%	149%
Month	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Supply (gal.)	120,209,400	119,440,400	115,656,000	117,050,400	110,013,000	111,569,400
Historic demand	88,027,483	80,949,989	72,416,278	52,740,500	28,698,933	26,794,900
Historic supply relative to demand	137%	148%	160%	222%	383%	416%

5.1. WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE STAGES SUMMARY

These tables summarize each water Response Stage, recommended reductions, types of actions, and scenarios that may require such reductions. Additional information for each is provided in the subsequent sections.

Response Stage	Trigger <i>Water supply relative to demand</i>	Target Reduction	Response Actions	Example scenario
1 Normal	> 120%	0%	Unrestricted	Full function
2 Advisory	120%	5%	Voluntary	Loss of all springs in summer
3 Warning	105%	15%	Voluntary & Mandatory	Loss of a well and all springs in shoulder season
4 Critical	90%	25%	Voluntary & Mandatory	Loss of the most productive well in shoulder season
5 Emergency	75%	>25%	Mandatory	Loss of the most productive well in Summer

Key													
	Aesthetic uses	Vehicle or pavement	Private lawn watering	Common area lawn watering	Lodging laundry	Misters, toys, and sprinklers	All non-food plants	Swimming pools	Dust management	Food-bearing plants	Hydrant flushing	Indoor excess	
1 Normal													
2 Advisory	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○			○	
3 Warning	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○		○	
4 Critical	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	
5 Emergency	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	

5.2. WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE STAGES DETAIL

5.2.1. STAGE 1— NORMAL

Target: No reduction is necessary

Supply Management Actions: Regular practices for efficient water use are recommended. Utah Division of Water offers several resources, including ideas to “Slow the Flow.”

Conservation Actions: The City has implemented continuous checks for leaks in its infrastructure, a water leakage forgiveness program to incentivize repair, weather responsive irrigation in city parks, and indoor and landscaping codes for water conservation.

5.2.2. STAGE 2— ADVISORY

Target: Achieve a five percent (5%) reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Actions: None

Conservation Actions:

Voluntary

- **Aesthetic uses** are recommended to reduce operation hours if water sprays, shoots into the air, or falls. A recirculation pump is recommended.
- **Vehicle or pavement washing** are recommended to use water conservation measures such as a broom for walks or an automatic shut-off for washing vehicles.
- **Private lawn watering** is recommended between 8 PM and 8 AM to minimize evaporation. Consider reducing water by 5%.
- **Common area lawn watering** is recommended between 8 PM and 8 AM to minimize evaporation.
- **Lodging laundry** is recommended to provide education to guests on the water shortage with suggestions for water conservation.
- **All other non-food plants** are recommended to be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. Trees, shrubs and perennials should be prioritized over annuals.

- **Swimming pools** are recommended to use a cover to reduce evaporation and reduce fill level by four inches (4”) to reduce loss through splashing.
- **Misters, toys, and sprinklers** are recommended to reduce frequency or duration of use to reduce water by 5%.
- **Dust management** practices are recommended to integrate best management practices that reduce reliance on water for dust management.
- **Indoor excess** is recommended to be reduced through measures such as fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off water while brushing or washing, scraping plates instead of pre-rinsing, running full loads, using sink plugs, installing aerators and efficient showerheads, reusing greywater, and adding displacement devices to older toilets.

5.2.3. STAGE 3— WARNING

Target: Achieve a fifteen percent (15%) reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Actions: Equip well 7 and/or purchase water from GWSSA

Conservation Actions:

Voluntary

- **All other non-food plants** are recommended to be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. Trees, shrubs, and perennials should be prioritized over annuals.
- **Swimming pools** are recommended to use a cover to reduce evaporation and reduce fill level by four inches (4”) to reduce loss through splashing.
- **Dust management** practices are recommended to integrate best management practices that reduce reliance on water for dust management.
- **Indoor excess** is recommended to be reduced through measures such as fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off water while brushing or washing, scraping plates instead of pre-rinsing, running full loads, using sink plugs, installing aerators and efficient showerheads, reusing greywater, and adding displacement devices to older toilets.
- **Food-bearing plants** are recommended to only be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation.

Mandatory

- **Aesthetic uses** may not be operated if water sprays, shoots into the air, or falls. They may only be filled to a level required for maintenance.
- **Vehicle or pavement washing** is only permitted at a carwash with recycled water or when necessary for public health or safety.
- **Private lawn watering** may only be watered 8 PM and 8 AM to minimize evaporation. Watering is limited to three days per week on a designated schedule.
- **Common area lawn watering** may only be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM to minimize evaporation.
- **Lodging laundry** must only change linens for multiple night stays at the request of guests and provide education to guests on the water shortage with suggestions for water conservation.
- **Misters, toys, and sprinklers** must reduce frequency or duration of use by 15%.

5.2.4. STAGE 4— CRITICAL

Target: Achieve a twenty-five percent (25%) reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Actions: Equip well 7 and/or purchase water from GWSSA

Conservation Actions:

Voluntary

- **Indoor excess** is recommended to be reduced through measures such as fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off water while brushing or washing, scraping plates instead of pre-rinsing, running full loads, using sink plugs, installing aerators and efficient showerheads, reusing greywater, and adding displacement devices to older toilets.
- **Food-bearing plants** are recommended to be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM and with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only.
- **Hydrant flushing** for regular maintenance is recommended to be postponed, when possible, without compromising health or safety.

Mandatory

- **Aesthetic uses** may not be operated if water sprays, shoots into the air, or falls. They may only be filled to a level required for maintenance.
- **Vehicle or pavement washing** is only permitted when necessary for public health or safety.
- **Private lawn watering** may only be watered 8 PM and 8 AM to minimize evaporation. Watering is limited to two days per week on a designated schedule.
- **Common area lawn watering** may only be watered 8 PM and 8 AM to minimize evaporation. Watering is limited to three days per week on a designated schedule.
- **Lodging laundry** must only change linens for multiple night stays at the request of guests and provide education to guests on the water shortage with suggestions for water conservation.
- **All other non-food plants** may only be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM and with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation. Trees, shrubs and perennials should be prioritized over annuals.
- **Swimming pools** must discontinue filling. A cover to reduce evaporation is recommended
- **Misters, toys, and sprinklers** must reduce frequency or duration of use to reduce water by 25%.
- **Dust management** must integrate best management practices that reduce reliance on water for dust management.

5.2.5. STAGE 5— EMERGENCY

Target: Achieve a greater than twenty-five percent (25%) reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Actions: Equip well 7 and/or purchase water from GWSSA

Conservation Actions:

Voluntary

- **Indoor excess** should be eliminated through measures such as fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off water while brushing or washing, scraping plates instead of pre-rinsing, running full loads, using sink plugs, installing aerators and efficient showerheads, reusing greywater, and adding displacement devices to older toilets.

Mandatory

- **Aesthetic uses** may not be operated or filled.
- **Vehicle or pavement washing** is only permitted when necessary for public health or safety.

- **Private lawn watering** is prohibited.
- **Common area lawn watering** is prohibited.
- **Lodging laundry** must only change sheets and towels for multiple night stays when required by guests and provide public notice of the water shortage.
- **All other non-food plants** may only be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM and with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation. Watering is limited to two days per week. Trees, shrubs and perennials should be prioritized over annuals.
- **Swimming pools** may not be filled.
- Misters, toys, and sprinklers may not be operated.
- **Dust management** is only permitted when necessary for public health.
- **Food-bearing plants** may only be watered between 8 PM and 8 AM and with hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation.
- **Hydrant flushing** is only permitted when necessary for public health or safety.

6. EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT WATER SUPPLY FOR WATER OUTAGES

The City will manage prevention and response to water shortages in accordance with the *2015 Moab City Water System Vulnerability Assessment & Emergency Response Plan*.

7. NOTIFICATION

7.1. CUSTOMERS

As soon as meaningful data are available that a shortage may occur, the Communications Manager, or designee, shall notify the public by one or more of the following methods:

- Public service announcements
- Social media
- Publication of notices in a newspaper
- Direct mail or email to each customer
- Signs posted in public places
- Take-home flyers at schools
- Public meetings
- Moab municipal website

Mandatory actions will require written notice to customers.

7.2. PUBLIC SAFETY CONTACTS

The Utility Services Director, Communications Manager, or designee, shall notify directly the following individuals and entities of restrictions or water shortages, as defined in the subsections below, as appropriate for each response stage.

- Moab City Council
- Moab City Police Chief
- Moab Valley Fire Department Chief
- Grand County Emergency Management Director
- Utah Division of Emergency Management
- Southeast Utah Health Department
- Hospitals

- Schools
- Partnering water systems
- Major water users

8. EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

8.1. EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions shall be managed according to Moab Municipal Code 13.30 *Water use during shortages*. Except as noted otherwise by special circumstances, the provisions of the Water Shortage Response Plan shall not apply to:

- Water that is not provided by the City of Moab;
- Reclaimed water;
- Fire suppression;
- Repair of water distribution lines;
- Documented environmental requirement;
- Watering in of prescribed tree disease treatment chemicals or pesticide;
- Washing of garbage and food handling trucks for health and safety; and
- Water use that is necessary for permit requirements, except as outlined in each Response Stage.

8.2. EXCEPTIONS

The City may grant exceptions to the Water Shortage Response Plan to prevent an emergency condition relating to health or safety; extreme economic hardship; disruption of essential government services such as police, fire, and similar emergency services; or when practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships cause inconsistencies with the purpose and intent of the standards. Requests for exceptions to this document shall be submitted according to the process in Moab Municipal Code 13.30 *Water use during shortages*.

9. ENFORCEMENT

The Plan will be enforced according to the Moab Municipal Code 13.30 *Water use during shortages*, including but not limited to a civil penalty, as listed in the Master Fee Schedule, Chapter 3.50.