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Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

WaterMatters.org

Bartow Office

170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

Sarasota Office

6750 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Office

7601 U.S. 301 North (Fort King Highway)
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

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2.4.7.1.2 WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR LANDSCAPE/RECREATION USE.

The Applicant's plan shall address the following water conservation practices for Landscape/Recreation use:

- A. Conduct an ongoing analysis of the irrigation system efficiency, including conveyance, distribution, and application, and if storage ponds or reservoirs are used, an analysis of storage efficiencies. The analysis shall include periodic testing for application and distribution uniformity, and system maintenance to irrigate efficiently.
- B. Avoid daytime irrigation, aeration or other activities which involve spraying water into the air to the greatest extent practicable to minimize water losses from evaporation and the wind. This does not apply to daytime use of water for system maintenance or other necessary non-irrigation uses.
- C. Conduct an ongoing maintenance and repair program on the water distribution and irrigation systems, including a system-wide survey conducted at least once per year that includes monitoring flow rates and system pressures to detect leaks and clogs; routine cleaning of system components (nozzles, valves, filters, meters, etc.); checking controllers or timers for accurate operation; and monitoring meters for unusually high or low readings.
- D. Evaluate the feasibility of improving the efficiency of the current water distribution and irrigation system, converting to a more efficient system, or installing stormwater ponds to provide an alternative water supply source. Implement the improvements, conversion, and/or installation when it is determined to be operationally and economically feasible.
- E. Implement an irrigation schedule that maximizes the efficiency of delivering the correct quantity of water to the root zone at the time it is needed. This includes varying the irrigation schedule (time and duration) to accommodate rainy and dry seasons, adjustments for rainy versus dry and normal rainfall years, use of rain sensors, and reducing irrigation during dormant months.
- F. Monitor ambient conditions and soil profile using appropriate tools to determine when and how much irrigation water is needed. Examples of these tools include soil moisture sensors, weather stations or other climatic measuring devices, and piezometers to monitor the water table elevation.
- G. Use frequent mowing practices to keep turf at an optimum constant height to provide a dense canopy to retain soil moisture by shading.
- H. Reduce or eliminate irrigation runoff by monitoring irrigation duration so that only the water necessary for plant growth is used and avoiding irrigation of paved areas.

- I. Use Florida-friendly landscape principles and components consistent with Section 373.185, F.S.
- J. Applicants for residential irrigation where potable supply for the development is supplied by another Permittee, the following conservation plan requirements are in addition to those above:
 - (1) minimization of lawn and landscape irrigation with supplies other than reclaimed water.
 - (2) use of microirrigation on planting beds and other non-turf areas where irrigation is required, and minimize the acreage of irrigated lawn area.
 - (3) properly installed, and maintained and operational rain or soil moisture sensor shutoff devices or an evapotranspiration controller plus rain sensors and an active data subscription. Irrigation systems shall be properly maintained and incorporate the standards developed pursuant to Section 373.228(4), F.S.
 - (4) deed restrictions or covenants shall not:
 - a. require a certain percentage of lots, if applicable, or other areas, to be turfgrass.
 - b. require specific types of turfgrasses to be utilized.
 - c. require lawns, if applicable, or other areas, to be maintained at a specific color, and shall not prohibit browning during periods of dormancy or drought.
 - d. require resodding of turf during drought periods.
 - (5) for irrigation quantities that are supplied via a conveyance system that is separate from the indoor potable supply, installation of individual use metering and a water conserving rate structure for irrigation quantities.
- K. Use of AWS for irrigation.