



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-20

DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN DROUGHT BY CURTAILING NONESSENTIAL WATER USE, IMPLEMENTING WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND ENCOURAGING DROUGHT RESILIENCY

Oregon and the American West face an unprecedented drought. Drought threatens community health and well-being, economies, ecosystems, and quality of life. Oregon has a strong history of managing and caring for water to meet both instream and out-of-stream needs, but climate change and chronic drought require water conservation and a commitment to working together.

As of July 4, 2021, every Oregon county east of the Cascades has declared drought, and the entire state is in some category of abnormal dryness according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Record-breaking low snowpack levels, high temperatures, and significantly low stream flows are present in many parts of the state.

Drought has many effects, including: severe water reductions for irrigated agriculture; reduced forage for grazing; water restrictions or shortages in communities with limited supplies; low reservoir levels that limit or prevent recreational activities; low stream flows and high water temperatures that harm fish and restrict angling and other river uses; reduced productivity of forests and increased mortality of trees; and increased risk of wildfire.

The Oregon Legislature has approved new funding to begin helping communities do the work to address their water challenges. While this funding is a critical piece of meeting instream and out-of-stream water needs for Oregon's future, it is also critical that the state update its drought emergency plans and processes, and update how the state manages its own use of limited water resources.

In response to direction from the Governor's Office, many Oregon agencies already have taken steps to improve the sustainability of their operations, including actions to reduce water usage. Oregon state government can and should continue to lead by example, showing Oregonians that drought is a serious issue, but one that can be managed if we all work together.

Many local governments have also curtailed water use on city and county facilities. I appreciate their leadership and encourage all local governments in drought-stricken counties to conserve water and begin implementing drought resiliency strategies as we face a worsening drought together.



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NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

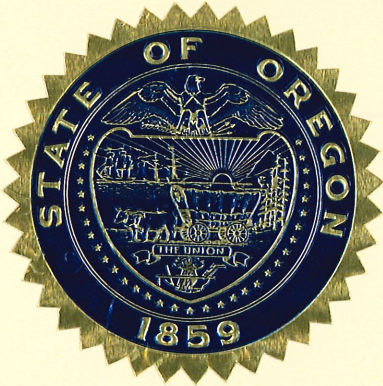
1. Definition. As used in this Executive Order, “state agency” means any agency within the Executive Department as defined in ORS 174.112. It does not include the Oregon Secretary of State, Oregon State Treasury, Oregon Department of Justice, and Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, which are encouraged to curtail nonessential water use but are not subject to the directives of this Executive Order.
2. Water Conservation Directives. To better protect Oregon’s communities, economy and natural resources, I hereby direct state agencies that own or manage land or facilities, including the Department of Administrative Services, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Military Department, and the Department of Corrections, to:
 - A. Implement actions that curtail or end the non-essential use of water for landscaping and other exterior features of buildings and grounds, including but not limited to lawn watering, fountains that do not recirculate water, and window washing;
 - B. Institute a moratorium (where allowed) on the installation of new non-essential landscaping projects that require irrigation at state-owned buildings; and
 - C. Develop and place signs and other messaging within state-owned buildings to encourage state employees to reduce their non-essential uses of water inside state-owned buildings.
3. Other Necessary Considerations. In making the adjustments set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order, agencies must consider any social and disproportionate effects of these actions on underserved communities before making final decisions on water-saving measures. Additionally, water usage is essential (and not subject to the directives of this Executive Order) if it addresses needs associated with severe weather or extreme heat.



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4. Effective Date. This Executive Order is effective immediately, and remains in effect until December 31, 2021, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 7th day of July, 2021.



Kate Brown

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Shemia Fagan

Shemia Fagan
SECRETARY OF STATE