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City Adopts Water Restrictions Ordinance

The Perris City Council, reacting to California's critical drought, has adopted unanimously an ordinance that severely restricts the days and times residents can water their lawns and establishes punishments for violators.

The emergency ordinance was adopted unanimously during the June 9 City Council meeting and went into immediate effect.

Under the terms of the new ordinance, residents will be limited to water lawns or ornamental landscaping to the following times:

- Saturdays after 6 p.m. and Sundays before 8 a.m.
- Tuesdays after 6 p.m. and Wednesdays before 8 a.m.

Other restrictions prohibit watering lawns within 48 hours of measurable rainfall, watering ornamental turf on public street medians and watering landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Property owners face warnings and escalating fines for each violation.

Authorities will issue two written warnings for separate violations occurring within one year. A fine of \$100 will be assessed for the third warning in 12 months; a fourth violation in a year will result in a \$300 fine and a \$500 fine will be imposed for each additional offense within one year.

Perris officials stressed that imposing fines is not a way to generate revenue for the City but as a way of driving home the importance of saving water during this critical period.

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