

Drought Fine

The Drought Fine, separate from the Administration Fine, is used to enforce water use limitations required as a part of Western’s retail Water Shortage Contingency Program. The fine gets added onto a customer’s bill if they use water in the restricted water use category. Table 1 shows the restricted water use categories. Table 2 shows the Drought Fine amounts.

Table 1: Implementing the Drought Fine

Shortage Stages	Restricted Water Use Category
1	No water use restriction, no drought fines applied.
2	No water use restriction, no drought fines applied.
3	Tier 4 restricted. If water use occurs in Tier 4, drought fine applies.
4	Tier 3 restricted. If water use occurs in Tier 3 or higher, drought fine applies.
5	Tier 2 restricted. If water use occurs in Tier 2 or higher, drought fine applies.
6	10% of Tier 1 restricted. If water use occurs above 90% of Tier 1, drought fine applies.

Table 2: Drought Fine Amounts

USAGE ABOVE TARGETED RESTRICTIONS	METERS 1" AND SMALLER					METERS LARGER THAN 1"				
	STAGES 1 & 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGES 1 & 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5	STAGE 6
0-15% usage occurring in restricted category	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
16-25% usage occurring in restricted category	\$0	\$10	\$20	\$30	\$45	\$0	\$30	\$55	\$80	\$130
26-50% usage occurring in restricted category	\$0	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$55	\$0	\$55	\$80	\$100	\$155
50%+ usage occurring in restricted category	\$0	\$30	\$40	\$45	\$65	\$0	\$80	\$100	\$130	\$185

For example, Western had declared a Stage 3 shortage stage (as defined in this Ordinance). As defined in provision 8 (D) of this Ordinance, which is described as water use prohibited in the “Unsustainable Use” Category (defined as Tier

4). In this example, a Customer, with a meter size of 1-inch, uses 30 billing units and 5 billing units occurs in the Unsustainable Use category (Tier 4). The budgeted amount for Tiers 1-3, also representing the non-restricted water use, is 25 billing units (30 total billing units minus 5 billing units in Tier 4). The percentage determined would be $5/25 = 20\%$, so a fine would be given. The amount of the fine would be looked up by the corresponding percentage usage, meter size, and the relative stage. In this example, their fine of \$10 is added to the Customer's bill (Stage 3, 16-25% restricted category).

In another example, Western had declared a Stage 4 shortage stage (as defined in this Ordinance). As defined in provision 9 (D) of this Ordinance, which is described as water use prohibited in the "Inefficient Use" Category (defined as Tier 3). In this example, a Customer, with a meter size of 1-inch, uses 20 billing units and 6 billing units occurs in water use in the Inefficient water use category. The non-restricted water use is 14 billing units (20 total billing units minus 6 billing units in Tier 3 or higher). The percentage determined would be $6/14 = 42\%$, so a fine would be given. The amount of the fine would be looked up by the corresponding percentage usage, meter size, and the relative stage. In this example, their fine of \$30 is added to the Customer's bill (Stage 4, 26-50% restricted category).

