

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING OUTDOOR WATER USE

The Grafton Water District recently received its Water Management Act renewal permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This permit is required for the withdrawal of water from the District wells located throughout Town.

A new requirement that the DEP has mandated to all water suppliers across the State is, seasonal limits on nonessential outdoor water use and new water use restrictions. **These restrictions will take place immediately and will continue until changed.** The restrictions require that no nonessential watering be permitted during the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. The District Commissioners will require this restriction year round.

Nonessential watering that is subject to the mandatory restrictions include:

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety
- Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks

Exemptions from the restrictions include:

- New lawns and plantings during the month of May and September
- Irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and plants by the means of a hand held hose.
- Businesses that require water use as a core function of the business

The Grafton Water District has instituted a fine schedule in the District Rules and Regulations, which will address offenders of these new DEP requirements. The first offense shall be a written warning. The second offense shall be a fine of \$50.00; each additional offense shall be \$50.00 more than the previous offense. The Board of Water Commissioners also reserves the right to terminate a service for habitual offenders.

The DEP has stipulated within our permit that the need to limit water use is to ensure a sustainable drinking water supply and to protect natural resources and stream flow for aquatic life. All users of water should limit their nonessential water use through the year by implementing practices such as capturing rain in rain barrels, hand watering, using car washes that recycle water, installing low flow water fixtures and limiting lawn surfaces.

The District asks you take the steps to assure you comply with these new regulations. Any questions related to these new restrictions can be addressed by calling the Grafton Water District office at 508-839-2302 or the Central Region of DEP at 508-792-7650. You can find information at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/watercon.htm>