

ARTICLE XX.

IRRIGATION AND WATER WASTE ORDINANCE

25-xxx Pursuant to the Town of Pittsboro's Water Efficiency Policy, the following measures related to irrigation and water waste are required for customers served by the Town's drinking water and reclaimed water distribution systems.

25-xxx Design and Maintenance of Irrigation Systems

(a) *System design.* All irrigation systems shall be designed, maintained, and operated to prevent, to the extent practicable, water from spraying or flowing onto paved or other impervious surfaces.

(b) *Sensor requirement for new and existing irrigation systems.* Users and installers shall not install automatic irrigation systems of any type without a rain or soil moisture sensor that will prevent irrigation during periods of rainfall and when there is sufficient moisture in the ground for plant health and survival. Existing irrigation systems are strongly encouraged to also install a rain or soil moisture sensor.

(c) *Sensor settings.* All rain sensors shall be adjusted and set so that they automatically shut off the irrigation system after not more than one-fourth (1/4) inch of rainfall has occurred or an equivalent moisture parameter is reached. All rain sensors shall be installed per manufacturer's instructions in a location that will provide full exposure to rainfall or appropriate moisture parameter such that accuracy of operation is assured. All rain sensors shall be maintained in good working condition. No person shall adjust either the rain sensor or irrigation system so that the sensor is not able to override and turn off the irrigation system after one-fourth inch of rain has fallen or an equivalent moisture parameter is reached.

(d) *Hand operated equipment.* All hoses used for hand watering, vehicle washing, or other allowable outdoor uses shall be equipped with shutoff nozzles.

(e) *Irrigation water source.* Where it is available, irrigation water shall be reclaimed water provided by the Town if it is available and accessible at the development site.

25-xxx Prohibition of Water Waste

No User shall:

(a) Cause or allow runoff of irrigation water from landscape areas into adjoining impervious areas, adjacent property, streets, sidewalks, gutters, storm water drains, or other paved surfaces as a result of incorrectly directed or maintained sprinklers, irrigation systems or other application devices, or excessive watering.

(b) Cause or allow active irrigation while precipitation is falling or soil moisture is adequate.

(c) Knowingly allow water to escape through leaks, breaks or malfunction within the water user's plumbing or distribution system for any period of time beyond which such a leak or break should reasonably have been repaired or corrected. All leaks, breaks or malfunctions shall be corrected within 30 days of identification of the source of the leak.

(d) Use or allow valve operation, the use of water or flushing from any public or private system or fire hydrant for any purpose other than fire suppression or other emergency without Town participation and written approval from the Town.

(e) Willfully or negligently waste potable water in a manner not otherwise prohibited above.

25-xxx Enforcement and Variances

(a) The Town Engineer or his/her designee shall identify violations of said ordinance.

(1) Whenever the Town Engineer finds that any person is in violation, the Engineer may give such person oral or written notice of that fact, with recommendations as to how the violation can be eliminated.

(2) Whenever the Town Engineer finds that any person violates this ordinance, the Director or Engineer may serve upon such person a written notice. Such notice shall be served by personal delivery, by mail, or by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall identify the person and the location of the violation, and shall specify a time within which the violation shall cease. The notice shall also warn that more severe measures (such as imposition of civil penalties or restriction or termination of water service) may be assessed or brought against the person unless the violation ceases.

(3) Any person who continues the violation after the period of time

specified in the notice for ceasing such activity shall be issued a citation by personal delivery, mail, or certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be subject to the civil penalty and enforcement procedures specified in subsection (c) below. The civil penalty shall be paid within 30 days of receipt of the citation.

- (b) Penalties.
- (4) (1) Civil penalties. Violations of this section shall subject the offender to a civil penalty as set forth in the town budget fee schedule, to be recovered by the town in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within the prescribed period of time after he or she has been cited.
- (5) (2) Other enforcement action. Additionally, the director may restrict or terminate water service in accordance with law.

25-xxx Relationship to Reclaimed Water Ordinance

- (a) The requirements of this Ordinance are to be adhered to in conjunction with the Reclaimed Water Ordinance and other relevant town policies or ordinances.

25-xxx Relationship to Water Shortage Stages

- (b) The requirements of this Ordinance may be superseded by a declaration of a Water Supply Shortage or Water Supply Emergency, or by mandatory water restrictions as set forth in the town's Water Shortage Response Ordinance.