

I agree with staff that the strict 2-day limitation on irrigation should be discontinued so that residents can irrigate whenever they feel appropriate as long as it doesn't go over their allotment. The allotment should be calculated on a weekly total rather than a daily maximum to allow the residents more flexibility. Council needs to trust residents to manage their water consumption. Staff has said that residents have more than met the 20% reduction targets.

I am not in favor of the very restrictive numbers that staff have suggested for further reductions. By their own account, staff has said that we are going into the peak heat time of the year and that means that people and plants will need a bit more TLC. We all have quite an investment in our yards, emotionally as well as financially. The town, in turn, benefits from people having that investment in beauty that both residents and visitors enjoy.

As for the next increment of draught planning, I feel like staff is being so conservative that residents will be forced to abandon much of their garden plantings. I would support a happy medium between the 76% and the 48% conservation goals—something like 60% for the months of August through October. Then once we get to November we can have more restrictive goals since the weather is less hot and the need for irrigation is less. We can make up the numbers by being frugal when it is less painful for the plants and the residents.

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