Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

November 12, 2024

Dear Water Management Registrants and Permittees:

On November 7, 2024, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared a

- **Level 3 - Critical Drought in the Central and Northeast Drought Regions** and
- **Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Western, Connecticut River Valley and Southeast Regions.**

As shown on the attached map, the Cape and Island Drought Regions remain in Level 0 - Normal.

After more than a month of nearly no rain and a growing number of wildfires, Massachusetts is clearly experiencing significant drought conditions. Please review any conditions pertaining to outdoor water use in your WMA permit or registration. If you hold both a registration and a permit that includes seasonal restrictions on nonessential outdoor water use, **then the restrictions required in your permit are controlling**. **Although most restrictions on outdoor water use in Water Management permits expired on September 30th, MassDEP encourages everyone to continue to reduce water use at this time.**

Public Water Suppliers (PWS) that impose mandatory use restrictions are required to notify MassDEP, per 310 CMR 22.15(8). PWSs that impose voluntary water use restrictions are asked to notify MassDEP as well. A MassDEP Notification of Water Use Restriction form can be found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-water-use-restrictions-for-cities-towns-and-golf-courses#current-city-and-town-water-restrictions-. Send the completed form to Brittany Segill by email at brittany.segill@mass.gov, or by US Mail to MassDEP Water Management Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

Golf Course - Registrants are required to notify MassDEP they put their Seasonal Demand Management lan (SDMP) in place. Permittees should review their permit and notify MassDEP if required in the SDMP. The Notification of Water Use Restriction form for golf courses can be found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-water-use-restrictions-for-cities-towns-and-golf-courses. Please send completed golf course restriction forms to Linjun Yao at linjun.yao@mass.gov or by US Mail to MassDEP Water Management Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

Very truly yours,



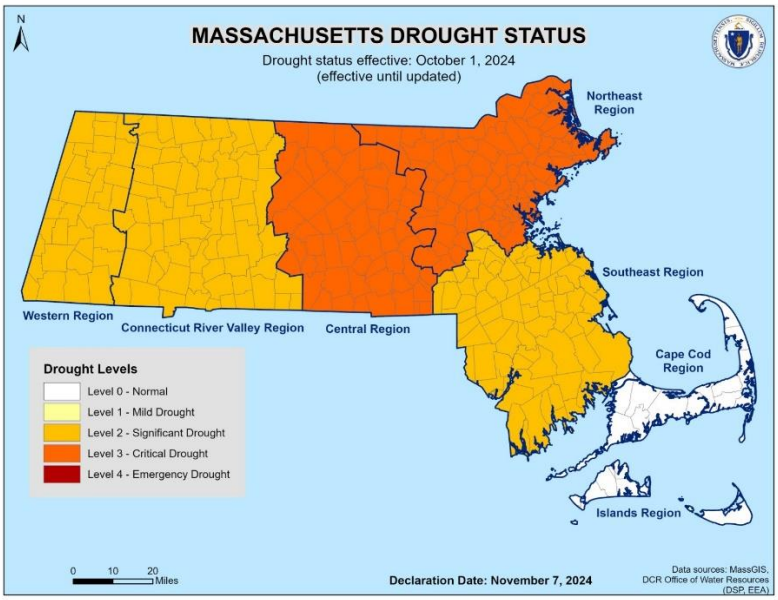
Kathleen Baskin
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Water Resources

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact MassDEP at 617-292-5500.
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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Steve Estes-Smargiassi, MWRA
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Level 2-Significant and Level 3-Critical Drought in Massachusetts



Guidance on Instituting Outdoor Water Use Restrictions During Drought

Note: If you hold both a Water Management registration and a permit that includes seasonal restrictions on nonessential outdoor water use, then the permit is controlling and you are required to institute the restrictions detailed in your permit.

Although most restrictions on outdoor water use in Water Management permits expired on September 30th, MassDEP encourages everyone to continue to reduce water use at this time.

For Public Water Suppliers:

Level 2 (Significant Drought): All nonessential outdoor water uses are banned, except that watering of ornamentals and flower gardens with drip irrigation, hand-hold hose or watering cans may be permitted.

Level 3 (Critical Drought): All nonessential outdoor water uses are banned.

For Golf Courses:

Level 2 (Significant Drought): reduce irrigation of fairways to 60 percent of normal, with no irrigation of roughs, landscaping and ornamentals.

Level 3 (Critical Drought): recue irrigation of fairways to 40 percent of normal, with no irrigation of roughs, landscaping and ornamentals.

For more information on water conservation and what residents and communities can do, visit the Massachusetts Drought Management webpage (https://www.mass.gov/guides/drought-management-in-massachusetts).