## Eureka County, Nevada



### Joint Water Conservation Plan for

Town of Eureka Water System
Devil's Gate GID District #1 and District #2
Crescent Valley Town Water System

2021 update

### Eureka County 2021

### Joint Water Conservation Plan for Town of Eureka Water System Devil's Gate GID District #1 and District #2 Crescent Valley Town Water System

### Summary

Eureka County Public Works (ECPW) is dedicated to promoting water conservation through public outreach, customer education and responsible stewardship. ECPW recognizes the benefits of wise water use including:

- Cost savings Minimizing the amount of water pumped, stored, and distributed reduces operating costs and saves money for ECPW and its customers.
- Wastewater treatment benefits Reduction of interior water use cuts wastewater loads on sewer treatment facilities and customer septic tanks, resulting in reduced treatment costs and lessened environmental impact.
- Environmental benefits Water removed from an aquifer for human consumption could be conserved for other purposes and future use.
- Water supply limitations Water conservation can help stretch existing groundwater resources.
- Energy savings Reducing water production will save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Regulatory compliance Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS 540.121 through 540.151) require "suppliers of water" to adopt a water conservation plan.
- Customer benefits Customers who conserve water may enjoy lower water bills and possibly lower wastewater and energy bills.

### Water Systems

Eureka County Public Works (ECPW) manages and maintains four water systems, the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate (District #1 and #2), and Crescent Valley. The Town of Eureka system serves 454 customers, both residential and commercial. Devil's Gate Districts 1 and 2 serve 79 residential and commercial customers in Diamond Valley. Crescent Valley Town Water serves 230 residential and commercial customers. Individually or combined, these systems serve less than 3,300 persons.

The Town of Eureka system is gravity fed by three storage tanks. The Town's water source currently includes two wells in Diamond Valley and 10 springs in the mountains south of town. Water supplied by the wells is pumped into the storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of 2,430,600 gallons. Eureka's wells have backup generators.

Devil's Gate is a residential area located in southern Diamond Valley, approximately 8 miles from the Town of Eureka, situated north and south of Highway 50. The gravity-fed water system consists of one main well and a 405,300 gallon water storage tank located near the junction of U.S. 50 and SR 278. Eureka Town Water serves as the backup for Devil's Gate. The wells pump into the tank. Supplemental water from the Eureka Town system supplies the Devil's Gate tank when triggered by a low water sensor.

The Town of Crescent Valley is located 135 miles north of the Town of Eureka, 20 miles south of Interstate 80. The Crescent Valley water is supplied from two main wells with back-up generators. The wells pump through an arsenic treatment plant to remove arsenic before filling the three tanks which store a total of 660,000 gallons of water to supply the gravity-fed system.

#### **Water Conservation Plan Elements**

Note: NRS citations are shown in blue in the font used by NRS.

### Methods of public education (NRS 540.141 1. (a) (1) and (2))

- (a) Methods of public education to:
- (1) Increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in this State and the need to conserve water.
- (2) Encourage reduction in the size of lawns and encourage the use of plants that are adapted to arid and semiarid climates.

This water conservation plan will be provided to customers of the Eureka County water systems in an effort to increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in this state in general, and Eureka County in particular, and the need to conserve water. The information and educational resources contained herein are intended to give system customers the basic tools to evaluate and improve interior and exterior water use practices. Guidance for determining appropriate lawn watering schedules, checking for household leaks, and estimating how much water can be saved by installing water efficient residential plumbing fixtures is provided in Appendix A. In addition, ECPW provides customers with water conservation information in their bills, and a periodic information bulletin is inserted into the utility bill to promote effective communication with customers.

ECPW also encourages customers to choose landscape design and planting that promote water conservation, and to redesign existing landscaping to reduce the size of lawn areas and encourage the use of plants that are adapted to arid and semiarid climates.

New construction landscapes and irrigation systems should be designed in accordance with the seven principles of water efficient (xeriscape) landscaping.

- Proper planning and design for local climates
- Soils analysis

- Appropriate plant selection
- Practical turf areas
- Efficient irrigation
- Use of mulches
- Appropriate maintenance

See "Principles of Xeriscape Design" linked in Appendix A. Information about evapotranspiration rates for Eureka County is included along with a lawn care guide for northern Nevada, and other helpful information related to use of water outdoors.

### Specific conservation measures (NRS 540.141 (b))

(b) Specific conservation measures required to meet the needs of the service area, including, but not limited to, any conservation measures required by law.

Each water system is metered. The meters installed at the wells are read daily in order to monitor excessive water use and take immediate action when use is excessive. By integrating water infrastructure needs into the capital improvement plan, and allocating funds to address the needs, the County strives to maintain and improve the efficiency of transmission which in turn promotes management and conservation of water.

### Management of water (NRS 540.141 (c))

- (c) The management of water to identify and reduce water loss in water supplies, inaccuracies in water meters and high pressure in water supplies, which must include, without limitation:
- (1) Goals for acceptable levels of water loss in water supplies. Such goals may use the following performance indicators and analyses, without limitation:
  - (I) Infrastructure water loss index;
  - (II) Water audit data validity score;
  - (III) Operational basic apparent losses;
  - (IV) Operational basic real losses; and
  - (V) Economic level of water loss.
- (2) A plan which analyzes how the supplier of water will progress towards the goals established for the acceptable levels of water loss.

In an effort to promote water conservation and reduce water waste within these water systems, ECPW has programs in place to identify and reduce system leakage, inaccuracies in water meters and to monitor distribution system pressures. Public Works acts immediately to repair leaks as soon as they are identified. They replace old water mains and service lines as funding is available. Defective meters are replaced immediately. Water operators check each system once a day, every day, 365 days per year. Defective equipment, when identified, is immediately replaced. Well water levels are measured by hand monthly and monitored continuously via SCADA computer software. Telemetry assists the water operators to monitor tank levels and pump operation, and alerts them to potential water system leaks and malfunctions. ECPW provides well reports to the Nevada Division of Water Resources on a monthly basis, but well information is measured in real time.

Eureka County Public Works has the following plan regarding water loss. It is the policy and practice of ECPW to identify and reduce water loss in water supplies and inaccuracies in water meters. ECPW has set a goal to minimize water loss through active management of the water systems and monitoring and tracking of water loss on an annual basis. The system's telemetry is a powerful tool to monitor the system and identify and track water loss. The drought management plan is a contingency plan for drought conditions to ensure a supply of potable water. The telemetry provides daily readings to monitor for leaks. The calculation of water loss occurs annually. The portion of the plan addressing the installation of meters is complete, as all new services require meters, and 99% of existing services are metered. Standards for water efficiency for new developments will be implemented through reliance on state building code requirements because Eureka County has no building codes or building department. When water rates are next reviewed by the governing body of the water systems, tiered rate structures will be presented. ECPW drought management plan includes watering restrictions based on time of day and day of week.

Refer to Appendix B for water loss and analysis.

### Management of water (NRS 540.141 (d))

(d) The management of water to, where applicable, increase the reuse of effluent.

The Town of Eureka does not reuse effluent from its wastewater systems. Devil's Gate GID and Crescent Valley do not have wastewater systems.

### Drought Contingency Plan (NRS 540.141 (e))

(e) A contingency plan for drought conditions that ensures a supply of potable water.

The following contingency plan in the event of drought conditions will help assure the adequate supply of potable water. This plan specifies four stages of water conservation measures to be implemented based on the severity of the need to conserve.

### Stage One

During normal water system operating conditions, i.e., no drought, customers should observe every day "common sense" water conservation measures to help keep customer bills low and reduce the burden on the water systems. Each water system has its own ordinance. The three systems require all residential and commercial customers have a water shutoff valve installed between the water meter and the residence or commercial building. This will allow customers to shut off water service when needed to repair leaks or perform other plumbing maintenance. Eureka Public Works should only be called out to shut off water services during emergencies. All customers are encouraged to perform a home or business water audit and install water saving devices such as low flow showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet tank bags, etc. ECPW will provide

information on retrofitting home fixtures to customers upon request. Many tips for conserving water and guidelines for performing home water audits are contained in Appendix A.

### Stage Two

These measures should be implemented when the water system is experiencing drought conditions. Customers should avoid over watering lawns. Sprinklers should be positioned so that no water runs off lawn areas and into curbs or gutters. Guidelines for watering lawns, including how to measure water applied and determine how many minutes a week to water during each month of the growing season are contained in Appendix A.

### Stage Three

These measures will be implemented when the water systems are experiencing water shortages due to a drought, limitations in water storage, or water transmission equipment failures or malfunctions. Restricted watering will use the following "odd/even" system adapted to meet the unique attributes of the water system. Residential and commercial customers with odd addresses will restrict watering lawns and outside landscaping to Tuesdays and Saturdays. Residential and commercial customers with even addresses will water on Wednesdays and Sundays. There will be no landscape watering on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. No landscape watering will be permitted between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, or during windy conditions.

### Stage Four

These watering restrictions will be implemented in the event of emergencies or cataclysmic failure of water system components or equipment. No outside landscape watering will be permitted. Eureka County Public Works shall restrict other water usage as required. In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary to go immediately from Stage 1 to Stage 4.

### Plan schedule, review and revision (NRS 540.141 (f))

(f) A schedule for carrying out the plan or joint plan.

Implementation of this Plan is ongoing. ECPW will periodically review the plan and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures contained herein. The plan may be revised to reflect changing needs and conditions of the water systems. A copy of the plan will be available for inspection by members of the public during normal office hours at the ECPW office. A copy of the plan will be provided to new customers at time of application. The Plan will be posted on the Eureka County Public Works website, and will include links to the web-based references cited. Interested persons may submit written views and recommendations on the plan.

### A plan for how the supplier of water will progress towards the installation of meters on all connections. (NRS 540.141 (g))

(g) A plan for how the supplier of water will progress towards the installation of meters on all connections.

Ninety-nine percent of residential and commercial connections are metered. Construction water is metered. Well maintenance through pumping to atmosphere is metered. A monthly fee is charged for residential customers not on the system to haul water. Hydrant water use for maintenance and fire protection is not metered, but considered to be part of responsible operations and maintenance.

### Standards for water efficiency for new development. NRS 540.141 (h)

(h) Standards for water efficiency for new development.

Design of water and sewer systems must be approved by NDEP. New developments in the water districts covered by this Plan must be metered. New developments are required to meet current state building codes and are subject to state inspection depending on the type of construction. Using currently available pipes and fixtures in conformance with state building code provides its own water conservation. ECPW encourages water efficient landscaping. Note that developments not connected to the County water systems are not covered by this plan.

### Tiered rate structures for the pricing of water to promote conservation of water (NRS 540.141 (i))

(i) Tiered rate structures for the pricing of water to promote the conservation of water, including, without limitation, an estimate of the manner in which the tiered rate structure will impact the consumptive use of water.

Currently, the rate structure for all three ECPW water systems is the Uniform Block Rate. The unit price for water used (above the number of gallons included under the base rate) remains the same, regardless of how much water is consumed. This rate structure encourages a reasonable amount of water conservation, since customers pay more for higher consumption. However, if changing conditions warrant, ECPW may evaluate water rate structures that promote water conservation more effectively, such as Increasing Block Rates. With Increasing Block Rates, the unit price for water increases as water consumption increases. We anticipate that the next time ECPW and the County Commission evaluate the rate structure, tiered rates will be presented for consideration.

### Watering restrictions based on the time of day and the day of the week. NRS 540.141 (j)

(j) Watering restrictions based on the time of day and the day of the week.

Under stage 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan, measures will be implemented when the water systems are experiencing water shortages due to a drought, limitations in water storage, or water transmission equipment failures or malfunctions. Restricted watering

will use the following "odd/even" system adapted to meet the unique attributes of the water system. Residential and commercial customers with odd addresses will restrict watering lawns and outside landscaping to Tuesdays and Saturdays. Residential and commercial customers with even addresses will water on Wednesdays and Sundays. There will be no landscape watering on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. No landscape watering will be permitted between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, or during windy conditions.

### Measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and estimate of the amount of water conserved annually, in gallons. NRS 540.141 2 (a) and (b)

- 2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, a plan or joint plan of water conservation submitted to the Section for review by a supplier of water providing service for 500 or more connections must include provisions relating to:
- (a) Measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan or joint plan.
- (b) For each conservation measure specified in the plan or joint plan, an estimate of the amount of water that will be conserved each year as a result of the adoption of the plan or joint plan, stated in terms of gallons of water saved annually.

The average residential service in Eureka uses 574 gallons per day during the period from April to October. The average residential service in Devil's Gate uses 796 gallons per day during the same period. The average residential service in Crescent Valley uses 1124 gallons per day for the same period. By implementing conservation measures as described in this Plan, it is estimated that the average residential customer would save 57 to 112 gallons per day, or about 10% of current use, depending on the water system. Note that none of the water systems covered by this plan provides water service for 500 or more connections.

### Requirements for supplier of water to calculate water loss NRS 540.145 1 (b) and 3 (a) and (b)

NRS 540.145 Requirements for supplier of water to calculate water loss. [Effective January 1, 2020.]

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, each supplier of water that is required to adopt or update a plan of water conservation in accordance with the provisions of <u>NRS 540.131</u> and:
- (b) Serves less than 3,300 persons must calculate the amount of water delivered by the supplier of water and the amount of water that was billed to customers of the supplier of water for each year. The calculations must be submitted by the supplier of water to the Section with the plan for water conservation or update to the plan of water conservation, as applicable.
- 3. If the supplier of water has previously submitted the results of the calculations conducted pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 to the Section, and is submitting an update to the plan of water conservation, the supplier must also submit to the Section:
  - (a) A comparison between the results of the new calculations and the previous calculations; and
- (b) An analysis of any progress made by the supplier towards the goals for acceptable water loss established in the plan for water conservation pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 540.141.

#### NRS 540.145 1(b)

Individually or combined, these systems managed by Eureka County serve less than 3,300 persons. The water loss calculations described in this subsection are provided in Appendix B.

### NRS 540.145 3 (a) and (b)

Eureka County Public Works has not previously submitted the results of the calculations now required pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1. Comparisons between new and previous calculations will be provided when the next update is required, in 5 years.

### Incentives (NRS 540.151 1. (a),(b), and (c))

NRS 540.151 Supplier of water required to adopt plan to provide certain incentives; procedure for adoption of plan; adoption of joint plans permitted.

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, each supplier of water which supplies water for municipal, industrial or domestic purposes shall adopt a plan to provide incentives:
  - (a) To encourage water conservation in its service area;
  - (b) To retrofit existing structures with plumbing fixtures designed to conserve the use of water; and
  - (c) For the installation of landscaping that uses a minimal amount of water.

The water conservation plan of Eureka County Public Works provides incentives to encourage water conservation in its service area, to retrofit existing structures with plumbing fixtures designed to conserve water, and to install water wise landscaping. The bulletin that is provided to customers on a periodic basis contains information and website references to encourage conservation by customers within the service area. The information bulletin also communicates to customers that it is their responsibility to conserve water, and that conserving water also helps to save customers money. The bulletin and website references also contain information on choosing water saving plumbing devices and installing landscaping that uses less water.

### **Implementation**

The final Water Conservation Plan was adopted by the respective boards. Please refer to the "Attest" signature page for official adoption documentation and the date of adoption.

### Appendix A

#### **Public Education Materials**

The following information and educational resources are made part of this plan. The titles are listed below along with links to the website address where available. To the extent possible, these resources will be posted or linked on the Eureka County Public Works website. Printed copies of the information are also available from ECPW.

### Overall water conservation

100 Ways to Conserve Water <u>www.wateruseitwisely.com</u>

#### Indoor water conservation

**Saving Water: Tips for Residential Use** 

https://www.home-water-works.org/water-conservation-tips/home

**Conducting a Home Water Audit** 

https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/home-water-audit/

Water Sense Labeled Toilets (EPA factsheet)

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-01/documents/ws-products-

factsheet-toilets 0.pdf

Water Sense Labeled Bathroom Sink Faucets (EPA factsheet)

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-01/documents/ws-products-factsheet-bathroom-faucets.pdf

#### Outdoor water conservation

Principles of Xeriscape Design <a href="https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-">https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-</a>

conserve/landscape-care/principles-of-xeriscape-design/

Tips for Vegetable Gardening with Less Water

https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucmgplacer/files/188486.pdf

Water Conservation and Washing Vehicles

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/waterconservation/pages/carwashing.aspx

### <u>Outdoor water conservation – Nevada specific</u>

The All Seeing All Knowing Lawn Care Manual (University of Nevada Cooperative Extension) https://wrcc.dri.edu/washoeEt/docs/sp9302.pdf

Use the following information in conjunction with the Lawn Care Manual to determine how much water your lawn needs each month. Note that in Eureka County's changeable climate, the amount of water that the lawn needs varies considerably. You can save water in the spring and fall by not watering as much as you need to during the peak of summer.

Also note that by not watering in the heat of the day or during times of wind, you may conserve water and control your water bill.

Lawn watering requirements vary by month as follows.

April = 1.92 inches

May = 4.16

June = 5.44

July = 7.36

Aug = 6.08

Sept = 3.52

Oct = 1.6

Per the local agmet weather station, lawn evapotranspiration (ET) in Eureka is 38 inches per year. <a href="http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/ETtotals.html">http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/ETtotals.html</a>

Subtract 6 inches of effective precipitation from that total = 32 inches of irrigation required. On a per month basis, you will need the irrigation amounts shown above. Estimates provided by Steve Walker, Walker and Associates, March, 2008

### Eureka County Lawn Evapotranspiration (ET) Rates and Seasonal Distribution for Customers Without Lawn Sprinkler Systems

Evapotranspiration (ET) is the loss of water from the soil, both by evaporation and by transpiration from plants growing in the soil (plants consuming water.)

If you use a hose with a sprinkler on the end to water your lawn, the following guidelines apply (see "The All Seeing, All Knowing Lawn Care Guide").

Use a tuna can as described in the "Take the ET Test" section of the Guide to measure the water applied by your hose sprinkler. Position the can about halfway between the sprinkler and the edge of the spray pattern.

After measuring the water height in the can, see the "Lawn Watering Chart of Northern Nevada Grasses" to find out how many minutes to water each day (the chart assumes you water two days each week).

Each time you move your sprinkler, water for the number of minutes shown on the chart. It is strongly suggested that you use an automatic timer for water with your hose. These timers attach to the outside faucet and shut the flow of water off when the pre-set time is reached. Remember that if the water starts to puddle or run off when watering, break your watering time into two or more sessions to allow it to soak in completely. Please read the entire Guide for more useful lawn care tips.

### Appendix B

Appendix B consists of combined water loss analysis for Eureka County Water Systems (page 12) and for each water system separately on the pages that follow.

EUREKA COUNTY WATER SYSTEM (EUREKA TOWN, DEVIL'S GATE GID, CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN)
CALENDAR YEAR 2020

		Revenue	Water		0.000			Revenue	Water	131.631										Non-Revenue	Water				1.087							
		Billed Water Exported		0.000			¢	Billed Metered Consumption (BMAC)	131.631	Billed Unmetered Consumption (BUAC)	0.000		Unbilled Metered Consumption (UMAC)	0.000		Unbilled Unmetered Consumption (UUAC)	0.329	Systemtic Data Handling Errors (SDHE)	0.329	Customer Metering Inaccuracies (CMI)	0.000	Unauthorized Consumption (UC)	0.329	Leakage on Transmission and Distribution Mains		Not Broken Down	Leakage and Overflows at Utility's Storage Tanks		Not Broken Down	Leakage on Service Connections up to	Point of Customer Metering	Not Broken Down
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										2						System	Input	Volume				132.718										
				Volume	from Own	Sources	(corrected	for known	errors)					132.718												Water	Imported	(corrected	for known	errors)	0	0.000

EUREKA TOWN WATER SYSTEM CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Billed Water Exported 0.000
Consumption
Consumption
Apparent Losses

DEVIL'S GATE GID - DISTRICT 1 & 2 CALENDAR YEAR 2020

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CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN WATER AUDIT
CALENDAR YEAR 2020

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#### RESOLUTION

# TO ADOPT A JOINT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF EUREKA WATER SYSTEM, DEVIL'S GATE GID DISTRICT #1 AND DISTRICT #2 AND CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN WATER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wish to adopt a joint water conservation plan for the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate GID District 1 & 2, and the Town of Crescent Valley; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is dedicated to promoting water conservation through public outreach, customer education and responsible stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the water conservation plan will be provided to customers of Eureka County water systems in an effort to increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in Nevada and the need to conserve water; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has programs to identify and reduce water system leakage, inaccuracies in water meters, and to monitor distribution system pressures; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County acts immediately to repair leaks as soon as they are identified and water operators check each system twice a day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Eureka County Commissioners, who are also the Board of Directors of the Devil's Gate GID Board that:

- 1. The joint water conservation plan for the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate GID District 1 & 2, and the Crescent Valley Town be adopted.
- 2. The joint water conservation plan be available and distributed to users in the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate GID District 1 & 2, and Crescent Valley Town water systems.

Adopted this 21st day of March, 2022.

J.J. Goicocchea

Chairman, Eureka County Commissioners

Vice Chair, Devil's Gate GID Board

Mike Sharkozy

Richard McKay

Vice Chair, Eureka County Commissioners

Member, Devil's Gate GID Board

Attest:

- Maku Merc

Member, Eureka Count Commissioners Chairman, Devil's Gate GID Board

BRADLEY CROWELL Director

ADAM SULLIVAN, P.E. State Engineer



### DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5250 (775) 684-2800 • Fax (775) 684-2811 March 3, 2022

Jeb Rowley Eureka County Public Works P.O. Box 714 Eureka, NV 89316

RE: Approval of Eureka County Public Works Water Conservation Plan

Dear Jeb Rowley,

Thank you for your submittal of Eureka County's joint Water Conservation Plan for the Town of Eureka Water System, Devil's Gate GID District #1 and District #2, and Crescent Valley Town Water System, approved by the Division of Water Resources on March 3, 2022. The plan contains all the necessary statutory elements required under Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 540.131 through 540.151. Your next update to the water conservation plan will be due five years from the date of this correspondence, as required by NRS 540.131(4)(c).

Your cooperation and commitment to water conservation are appreciated. Please contact me with any further questions or inquiries at *ngoehring@water.nv.gov* or (775) 684-2847.

Sincerely,

Nicole Goehring

NDWR Water Planning Section

Nicole Goehring

NG/ls

cc: Jeb Rowley, email

Joyce Jeppesen, email Bunny Bishop, email Nicole Goehring, email