



**WaterSavers®**  
Using Less. Returning Clean.

## How WaterSavers® and the International Carwash Association® can help with model drought restrictions.

The ongoing need for drought response presents an opportunity for the International Carwash Association and its WaterSavers program to work closely with municipalities in their efforts to maintain proactive drought response plans.

**A proactive, well-researched drought response plan helps maintain vital economic functions while demonstrating a commitment to the intelligent reduction of water use during drought conditions.**

In 2009 the Association created the WaterSavers program to help municipalities and consumers identify and recognize responsible users of water within the car wash industry.

Car washes typically make up **less than 1 percent** of a utility's total water use. Unfortunately, during drought conditions washes can be shut down causing business ruin and unemployment. The challenge, is the unequal treatment of car washes compared to other businesses when it comes to actual water consumption.

The ICA and its WaterSavers program has been an important ally for water regulators as they implement Car Wash Certification programs and create drought response plans to help equalize their efforts to be good stewards of our environment. Working with the ICA and its WaterSavers program, water systems in San Antonio, North Carolina, Georgia and Denver are all proactively recognizing environmentally responsible car washes, and during drought conditions, these washes are typically protected further as drought conditions worsen.

The ICA worked to develop a model drought response plan that municipalities can use to help create their own proactive plans.

### WaterSavers® Benefits

#### FOR THE MUNICIPALITY / REGULATOR

- ▶ Use WaterSavers as the basis for your certification program.
- ▶ Operators are required to annually complete an inspection form that is signed by a plumber.
- ▶ Submit forms annually to you – mitigates program costs on your end and allows you to easily put a program in to play.
- ▶ Support from the International Carwash Association

#### FOR THE OPERATOR

- ▶ WaterSavers membership is tied to a consumer facing public relations initiative driven by the International Carwash Association to help consumers recognize environmentally responsible car washes.
- ▶ Protection during drought conditions as a responsible user of water and the sanitary system.

**WashWithWaterSavers.com**

Visit [WashWithWaterSavers.com](http://WashWithWaterSavers.com) for more information on the International Carwash Association's WaterSavers® Program.

# MODEL DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

\* Drought stages should be defined by each utility based on factors that might constitute a water crisis



## Drought Stage 1: Drought Watch

- ▶ Wash your car at a commercial car wash
- ▶ Car washing at home limited to days allowed for irrigation. Car washing may only be done with a hose if it includes an automatic shut-off nozzle or must be done with a bucket.



## Drought Stage 2: Drought Alert

- ▶ Vehicle washing restricted to commercial car washes
- ▶ WaterSavers (or equivalent) members may continue to operate at full capacity
- ▶ Non-certified car washes must reduce water usage by 20%



## Drought Stage 3: Drought Warning

- ▶ Vehicle washing is restricted to commercial car washes that participate in the WaterSavers or equivalent program.
- ▶ Upon receiving recognition in a WaterSavers or equivalent program, a car wash may resume regular operating hours.
- ▶ Restrictions do not apply to locations using treated waste water or well water.



## Drought Stage 4: Drought Emergency

- ▶ Surcharge in effect for commercial water use
- ▶ Locations using treated waste water or well water are exempt from a surcharge.



## WaterSavers® Criteria

### ALL PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ All water discharge must be routed to water treatment or a leech/septic field as permitted.
- ▶ A backflow prevention device must be installed and operable on the potable water supply.
- ▶ All spray nozzles must be inspected annually to ensure maximum efficiency of water used.
- ▶ All water-saving devices must be maintained to original or improved specifications for the conservation of water.
- ▶ Spot-free reverse osmosis concentrate (a.k.a. "reject"), if such a system is used, must be reused in the wash process.
- ▶ The car wash must meet all local effluent criteria.

AND

### CONVEYORIZED OR IN-BAY/ROLL-OVER WASHES

- ▶ Maximum of 40 gallons of potable/fresh water per average wash package.

### SELF-SERVICE WASHES

- ▶ Maintains high-pressure wash nozzles and pump systems that use fewer than three gallons per minute.