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I'm sure you're aware that our spring weather did not produce anywhere close to normal amounts of rain and this was after a much drier than normal winter. In fact, the Provo weather station recorded a scant 0.17 inches for the month of May and 1.03 inches in April. Fortunately, my weather station recorded more than Provo. Nevertheless, the drought conditions for the entire Utah County area are listed as extreme. Due to the drought conditions all across Utah, Governor Cox issued an executive order asking Utahns to use water wisely and I whole heartedly support this action here in Elk Ridge.

The Governor asked that we follow water-saving tips found at SlowTheFlow.org and I encourage each household to review the suggestions and act upon them. Furthermore, the Governor's executive order calls for cities to develop and implement water restriction plans for the irrigation season.

In cooperation with the Governor's executive order and in accordance with Elk Ridge Ordinance 8-1-13, Water Conservation Plan; Scarcity of Water, I plan to issue a proclamation requesting that each household located in Elk Ridge City follow the following two conservation measures and I anticipate these will go into effect on June 15th so please plan accordingly.

First, there shall be no watering during the hours of 10 AM until 6 PM. During these hours, the effectiveness of water is greatly reduced due to the high rate of evaporation.

Second, all ornamental watering (lawns, shrubs, flowers, etc.) shall be done according to the following schedule: If your house number is odd then you water on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If your house number is even then you water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. There is no watering on Sunday.

Last year we employed the same water restrictions for a short period of time while we performed maintenance on the water system. During this time our water use decreased and I'm confident that following these simple measures will prove to be wise conservation measures. My hope is that we can all rally around these conservation measures without being compelled by fines or other negative means of enforcement. Let's do our individual part to conserve this precious resource and remember, we do live in a desert, so we ought to behave accordingly.

Mayor Ellis