

L.A. NOW

Southern California -- this just in

L.A. residents can water lawns three days a week under plan backed by council [Updated]

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The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday recommended a new water-conservation plan that would allow residents to water lawns and gardens three days a week, instead of the two days now permitted.

The council rejected a scheme that would have continued the two-day-a-week limit as well as assigned specific watering days for residents of even-numbered and odd-numbered addresses.

City lawmakers directed the Department of Water and Power to examine a plan that would permit people to irrigate three times a week, with each session lasting eight minutes. Under the current two-day-a-week plan, residents can water for 15 minutes at a time on Mondays and Thursdays, before 9 a.m. or after 4 p.m. The three-day-a-week plan would also assign specific days, including Saturday, to those living in even- and odd-numbered addresses. It would also allow automated watering only before 9 a.m. and after 4 pm.

The DWP is expected to take up the new proposal later this month, and the council's supporters of the plan voiced hopes that it could be in place when rising temperatures and reduced humidity arrive in August and September.

"We have to do something and we have to get going," said Councilwoman Jan Perry, who supported the plan.

The recommendation comes after a panel of experts concluded that the two-day-a-week irrigation rules created dramatic fluctuations in water pressure, contributing to a series of pipe breaks that damaged homes and businesses. One break created a sinkhole that swallowed part of a fire truck.

-- Patrick J. McDonnell at L.A. City Hall

Photo credit: Los Angeles Times

[Correction: An earlier version of this post incorrectly said that the Department Public Works would examine the new rules.]