

AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA LUCIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
PROHIBITING MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY FOR AN EXTERNAL SPRINKLER
SYSTEM FOR WILDFIRE DEFENSE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Board of Directors of the Santa Lucia Community Services District, as follows:

Section 1. Purpose.

1.1 The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit external sprinkler systems for wildfire defense from being connected to a municipal water system that is supplied by the water department within the Santa Lucia Community Services District.

1.2 Preventing external wildfire sprinklers from using municipal water preserves critical pressure and volume for firefighters and avoids depleting resources needed for household consumption.

1.3 Municipal water supplies are often in high demand during a wildfire event causing static water supplies (tanks, pools, etc.) to be the best choice for these systems to be connected to.

1.4 Numerous municipal water companies, fire departments and fire safe councils have recommendations that restrict or discourage the use of public water for exterior wildfire protection. The primary reason for these restrictions is that widespread and simultaneous use of exterior sprinklers during a wildfire can catastrophically drop water pressure, preventing fire resources from having the needed water supply and applying it where needed.

1.5 Municipal water systems are designed based on National Fire Protection Association standards and generally provide water to handle one-and-two family dwellings or large single structure fires, not the demand needed for a wildfire.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

- CSD - Community Services District
- IBHS - Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety - an independent, non-profit scientific research organization supported by the property insurance industry.
- NFPA - National Fire Protection Association - a global organization dedicated to reducing death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards.
- Passive wildfire mitigation strategies - class A roof, noncombustible siding, 0-5 foot noncombustible zone, etc.
- SLCSO - Santa Lucia Community Services District
- Tanks - above ground tanks or cisterns that hold water for static use

Section 3. Authority and Delegation.

The General Manager of the CSD and/or their designee shall have full authority and responsibility to enforce this ordinance. No person shall hinder, prevent, delay or interfere while assigned persons are engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Prohibition of External Sprinkler System

Any connection of any type of external sprinkler system for wildfire defense to the municipal water supply is hereby expressly prohibited.

Section 5. Supply Issues.

Municipal systems are designed for domestic use and structure fire suppression and often struggle with extreme demand during wildfires. Hooking an external sprinkler system to a municipal water supply may create unreliable water pressure and supply during an active wildfire compromising water availability for professional firefighters.

Section 6. Holding tanks and Tank Topping/Filling.

6.1 Using captured rainwater to fill tanks is highly encouraged. Holding tanks that are filled by the SLCSO water system connection will be limited to ¾" diameter pipe. This will limit the amount of water being used in the event of an emergency where gpm and pressure is crucial to protect life and property.

6.2 Tank topping/filling requests will be allowed from April 1st through June 30th with a required written notification to the water department of intent to fill and written approval by the water department of the request. Filling tanks or otherwise feeding exterior fire sprinkler systems during a fire event is prohibited. The SLCSO reserves the right to shut off water service to sprinkler systems using potable supplies to the detriment of firefighters during an emergency.

Section 7. Violations and Penalties.

7.1 Any person found violating any part of this ordinance may be subject to one or a combination of the following penalties:

- Daily fines;
- Service being disconnected by the water department;
- Liable for damage that occurs to water department infrastructure caused by the property owners water use; or
- Liable for property damage within the Santa Lucia Preserve caused by the property owners water use.

7.2 Fines imposed pursuant to this ordinance shall be assessed in accordance with Government Code section 53069.4. A first violation shall be subject to a fine of \$100; a second violation of the same ordinance provision within one year shall be subject to a fine of \$200; and each additional

violation within that same year shall be subject to a fine of \$500. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.

Section 8. Appeals.

Appeals to the decisions by the General Manager of the CSD, or to the penalties imposed after violations of this ordinance, must be filed within 10 calendar days of the decision and shall be heard by the SLCSB Board of Directors and the decision of the Board will be final.

Section 9. Severability.

If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this Ordinance, or application thereof to any person or circumstance, be held invalid by any court of law, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications; therefore, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.