Ordinance No. 3553

["Beginning July 1, 1998"]

(Amending or Repealing Ordinances)

Amends Ord. 3550
ORDINANCE NO. 3553

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, declaring a Water Shortage Emergency and limiting certain water uses and practices.

WHEREAS, drought conditions exist and are forecast to exist due to the current water levels within the City's water supply system that are substantially lower than the water supply necessary to guarantee the supply of water through the drier summer months and because of widespread predictions of a regional drought this summer due to unusually low snowpack levels; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that during the coming summer months, the water supply will be substantially lower than the summer months of previous years; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to place limitations on the use of water in order to provide for a sufficient supply of water during the dry summer months; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists due to current drought conditions and immediate limitations on the use of water are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Kent; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1 Water Emergency – Use Limitations
**SECTION 1. Findings.** A drought condition exists and is forecast to occur within the City of Kent and within Kent's water supply source recharge areas. It is prudent at this time to limit certain water uses and practices in order to conserve the City's water resources until the severity of the drought is known.

**SECTION 2. Water Emergency Declared.** Based upon the foregoing findings, the City Council declares a water supply emergency pursuant to Ch. 7.13 of the Kent City Code ("KCC"). The existence of this emergency authorizes the City Council to restrict or prohibit certain water uses, as more particularly described below. These restrictions may be amended, added to, or relaxed as the City gathers more specific information pertaining to impacts to its water supply resources.

**SECTION 3. Water Use Restrictions.** The City restricts the following water uses and practices, which restrictions shall only apply to City of Kent water system customers:

A. Pursuant to KCC 7.13.050(A)(1), the irrigating or watering of landscaping, grass, plants, vegetables, vines, trees, shrubbery, gardens, ground cover, or any other similar vegetation on all properties situated within the Kent city limits shall be limited as follows: those properties with a street address ending with an odd number shall only be permitted to use water for the above-listed purposes on calendar dates ending with an odd number; those properties with a street address ending with an even number shall only be permitted to use water for the above-listed purposes on calendar dates ending with an even number. The Public Works Director shall have the discretion to modify the restrictions as set forth in this section as deemed appropriate.

B. Pursuant to KCC 7.13.050(A)(5), water meters of three inch (3") diameter or greater installed or applied for after the effective date of this ordinance shall not be activated until October 1, 2001. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the installation of these meters; however, if the meters are installed after the effective date of this ordinance or if application to install these meters is made after the effective date of this ordinance, the meters will not be activated or otherwise put into use prior to this date.
to October 1, 2001. This restriction shall not apply to meter activations for public safety purposes.

**SECTION 4.** **Penalties.** A violation of any one or more provisions in this ordinance shall be subject to the penalties and enforcement provisions set forth in KCC 7.13.060.

**SECTION 5.** **Publication.** The City Clerk is directed to publish this ordinance in accordance with KCC section 7.13.040.

**SECTION 6.** – **Severability.** If any one or more section, subsections, or sentences of this Ordinance are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 7.** – **Effective Date and Term.** As provided by RCW 35A.11.090, this ordinance must be passed by a unanimous vote of the City Council and shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage. Further, this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect until October 1, 2001. The City Council may amend or repeal this ordinance prior to October 1, 2001, as it deems appropriate.

JIM WHITE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK
I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 3653 passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK

P:\Civil\Ordinance\WaterEmergency-UseLimits.doc