



November 15, 2023

RE: IMPORTANT IRRIGATION SYSTEM CHANGES DUE TO DROUGHT

Dear Harbourage Property Owner/Resident and Associations:

As you are aware, our area is in an extreme drought situation with severely reduced rainfall this year. Our community relies on rainwater to fill our large fountain lake. The lake water, together with a CDD-owned and maintained pump and filter system, provides filtered irrigation water to all properties within the community. Typically, the irrigation water is not restricted for use by the CDD other than during non-allowable irrigation times set by law, 10am-4pm daily, Mondays, and during or soon after a significant rainfall, which shuts off the system automatically in compliance with Florida Law.

In addition, the CDD owns and operates a well and pump system that adds water to the fountain lake to maintain the health of the lake and wildlife, and when necessary, provides additional water for irrigation purposes. Due to the increased demand for irrigation water and the lack of rainfall, the well is unable to meet the irrigation water demand, which for October 2023 was 3.9 million gallons. The average usage for 2022 was 2.5 million gallons per month. The lake level recently dropped below healthy levels and therefore the well pump has operated continuously for several weeks. The water level is being monitored on a daily basis and although there has been some improvement, the long-term reliance on the well for the majority of irrigation water is not seen as sustainable without conservation, good water use management, and restrictions implemented by all users. Our area is entering the normal dry season; therefore, measures should be implemented immediately to ensure our irrigation water supply is not in jeopardy.

Manatee County and surrounding areas have had mandatory water restrictions in place for many years, which allows irrigation only two days per week based on property address as shown below:

- Irrigation of established lawns and landscaping is limited to one time per day, two times per week.
- **Odd Addresses** ending in 1,3,5,7, or 9 may irrigate on **Wednesday and/or Saturday only**
- **Even addresses** ending in 0,2,4,6, or 8 may irrigate on **Thursday and/or Sunday only**
- Associations with **common areas** or areas with no address may irrigate **Tuesday and/or Friday only**
- No irrigation is allowed on Monday.

For more information on the current water restrictions please visit www.mymanatee.org then search on Water Restrictions.

The CDD Board of Supervisors is requesting all residents and associations abide by the mandatory water restrictions set by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and

Manatee County as shown above. Please adjust your irrigation system controls to comply with the above as soon as possible. If you feel you are unable to adjust your controls, our landscape vendor has offered to assist as needed. Please contact Tony Gipe, CDD Operations Manager, who will work with our vendor to reset your controls. Please email him at harbouragecddmanager@gmail.com or call (941) 727-5500.

Also, the irrigation water availability times will be adjusted as follows as of November 27, 2023:

Monday	OFF	No irrigation allowed.
Tuesday	Midnight - 7am	HOA, COA and CDD common areas only allowed
Wednesday	Midnight - 7am	Single Family Odd addresses only allowed
Thursday	Midnight - 7am	Single Family Even addresses only allowed
Friday	Midnight - 7am	HOA, COA, and CDD common areas only allowed
Saturday	Midnight - 7am	Single Family Odd addresses only allowed
Sunday	Midnight - 7am	Single Family Even addresses only allowed

NOTE: The irrigation pump system can be temporarily activated for system testing purposes as needed. Please contact Tony Gipe at (941) 727-5500 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule.

We are hoping this is a temporary situation; however, the conservation and sustainability of lake water for irrigation purposes, in addition to environmental and aesthetic reasons, is not only a priority of the CDD Board but also the responsibility of all residents and associations that share the lake water supply.

The CDD has been, and will continue, working with our landscape vendor to ensure all irrigation zones are operating efficiently for CDD maintained landscaped areas. We have turned off zones that have established plantings, checked and repaired leaks, adjusted irrigation heads not aimed in the most efficient manner, and replaced some heads that provide coverage that is more efficient. We are also looking at more drought tolerant and Florida friendly plants when landscape areas need replacement or even delaying the installation of new plants/sod until rains can assist with establishment. We encourage others to do the same.

The CDD Board of Supervisors wishes to thank you all in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

Regards,

The Harbourage at Braden River Community Development District
Board of Supervisors