



Riverside treatment facility shutdown to force cuts to water usage

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Mandatory cuts in water usage will be necessary next week across parts of western Riverside County as a water treatment facility goes down for maintenance, restricting the availability of supplies, it was announced Thursday.

The Western Municipal Water District will require all outdoor water use to cease between Monday and the following Saturday, March 7.

About 23,000 residential and commercial customers in the Hillcrest area of Riverside, Lake Hills, Lake Matthews, March Air Reserve Base, Air Force Village West and Mission Grove will be affected, according to water district officials.

The mandatory restriction on outdoor water usage is necessary because of a six-day shutdown of the Metropolitan Water District's Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant in Riverside.

The facility is overdue for repairs, and water supplies coming into the plant from the State Water Project will have to stop, leaving only stored water available for customers, officials said.

The Eastern Municipal Water District is asking for voluntary cutbacks in water usage during the same period. Customers in Homeland, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Perris, Quail Valley, Romoland and Sun City are being encouraged to scale down overall water consumption and suspend outdoor water use.