

19 December 2017

Circular 23 - 2017

Dear Resident,

## **WATER CRISIS - WATER RESPONSE PLAN 2018**

Western Cape is in the grips of the worst drought in the last 50 years and there is no respite forecast for a number of years. Evergreen Lifestyle Village management and residents alike are extremely concerned about the risks and implications as we have read a lot in the media about 'day zero'. With predictions that Cape Town may run out of usable drinking water by May 2018, it has become critical that residents adhere to the City's water rationing prescriptions.

Water rationing could lead to supply cuts if usage is above the recommended levels, especially during peak hours. Evergreen Lifestyle Villages are considering various options to implement a water security plan in our village due to the drought. The plan has four elements:

- Storage tanks: create emergency storage of municipal water to cater for municipal interruptions;
- Reduce: promote the use of onsite alternative water to reduce municipal usage;
- Emergency Treatment: ensure that measures are in place to provide all residents with sufficient potable water if an emergency situation (day zero) arises ; and
- Long term planning: to develop a long term plan, taking account of planned expansions and ground water resources, to improve water security.

Water saving initiatives to be implemented in Bergvliet Village have focussed predominantly on our residents, in the first instance. Initiatives for the common areas and individual resident gardens will be considered down the line:

### **Step 1: Reduce the amount of municipal water being used**

- We have isolated all external and garden taps linked to the municipal water supply.
- Encourage the use of the short flush button and not full flush button on all toilets.
- The free installation of water restrictors on all showers will be implemented in the New Year
- Monitor individual water consumption of residents who exceed 87 litres per person, per day.

### **Step 2: Promote the use of non-potable water from the existing underground water facility.**

We are setting up a service where residents can collect non-potable water from our existing well point. This water can be used, instead of drinking water, for non-essential activities – like flushing toilets, watering plants or washing clothes. Remember this water is from the well point and although it is good quality, it should not be drunk. This is a voluntary programme for those who want to help make a difference.

### **Step 3: Install an emergency treatment plant to ensure we can supply water if "day zero" arrives**

The village has a good quality source of water from the existing well point. A treatment plant is being commissioned, so that water can be treated to create drinking water quality. It will be stored in a 5000L JoJo tank and in the event of an emergency, we would be able to supply all residents with at least 20L of water a day.

#### Step 4: Start working on a long term plan

The executive mayor has stressed that water shortages are the “*new normal*”. The term implies that there is a change and the future will be different to the past that we have become used to. Although the current drought is an extreme event, it should be assumed that the risk will not go away.

“It will not be a permanent drought. There will be dry years and wet years and “moderate” years in between. But the chance of dry years increases as we go towards the end of the century. And the chance of wet years decreases as we go towards the end of the century. That’s our “*new normal*”, at least on the rainfall side.” *Climate System Analysis Group of the University of Cape Town.*

As part of the expansion of the village, we will also be looking at a more extensive plan to supply treated groundwater into the network.

Frequently asked questions:

##### 1. *Why doesn't the village just pipe the well water into our taps?*

- Connecting alternative water supplies into the reticulation network is very expensive: a much larger treatment plant will be needed.
- Planning permission is required as very strict municipal by-laws are being implemented.
- No control of how much “emergency” water each person gets.
- A possible risk of treated water damaging the water reticulation system, geysers, ancillary fittings, taps and fittings.
- Various levels of treatment will be required, depending on use and on minerals/properties of water.
- This also impacts installation cost, long term maintenance and sustainability of installation.

Our current plan allows us to put emergency measures into place immediately, while giving us time to look at more extensive treatment plants.

##### 2. *What is this going to cost?*

Naturally there will be significant costs associated with adding the storage capacity and the costs don't represent a significant increase in running costs.

Once again, thank you to all those residents who are making a significant contribution towards water saving.

Kind regards,



Derek Drew  
Managing Director – Operations

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