

# **DROUGHT CONTINGENCY AND EMERGENCY** **WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## ***1. Introduction***

The goal of this plan is to cause a reduction in water use in response to drought or emergency conditions so that the water availability can be preserved. Since emergency conditions can occur rapidly, responses must also be enacted quickly. This plan has been prepared in advance considering conditions that will initiate and terminate the water use restriction program.

A Drought/Emergency Management Committee consisting of two Board Members and the System Manager will monitor usage patterns and public education efforts and will make recommendations to the Board on future conservation efforts, demand management procedures or any changes to this plan. The Committee will develop public awareness notices, mail outs, and other methods that will begin and continue as a constant type of reminder that water should be conserved at all times, not just during a drought or emergency. This Committee will also review and evaluate any needed amendments or major changes due to changes in the WSC service area population, distribution system or supply. This review and evaluation will be done on a regular basis of five years unless conditions necessitate more frequent amendments.

The plan will be implemented according to the three stages of water use restrictions as imposed by the Board. Paragraph 4 describes the conditions that will trigger these stages.

## ***2. Public Involvement***

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the Board by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan. Notice of the meeting was provided to all customers. In the adoption of this plan, the Board considered all comments from customers.

## ***3. Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group***

Being located within the Neches and Trinity Valley Groundwater Conservation District, a copy of this Plan has been provided to that Regional Water Planning Group.

## ***4. Trigger Conditions***

The Drought Emergency Management Committee is responsible for monitoring water supply and demand conditions on a monthly basis (or more frequently if conditions warrant) and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan, that is, when the specified triggers are reached. The Committee will monitor monthly operating reports, water supply or storage tank levels and/or rainfall as needed to determine when trigger conditions are reached. The triggering conditions described below take into consideration: the vulnerability of the water source under drought of record conditions, the production, treatment and distribution capacities of the system, and member usage based upon historical patterns.

- a. Stage I - Mild Condition:** Stage I water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:
- 1) Water consumption has reached 80 percent of daily maximum supply for three (3) consecutive days.
  - 2) Water supply is reduced to a level that is only 20 percent greater than the average consumption for the previous month.
  - 3) There is an extended period (at least eight (8) weeks) of low rainfall and daily use has risen 20 percent above the use for the same period during the previous year.
- b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions:** Stage II water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following conditions exist:
- 1) Water consumption has reached 90 percent of the amount available for three consecutive days.
  - 2) The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for three (3) consecutive days. Example: The highest recorded water level drops Ten (10) feet or more for Three (3) consecutive days.
- c. Stage III - Severe Conditions:** Stage III water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following five conditions exist:
- 1) Failure of a major component of the system or an event which reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 20 psi for a period of 24 hours or longer.
  - 2) Water consumption of 95 percent or more of the maximum available for three (3) consecutive days.
  - 3) Water consumption of 100 percent of the maximum available and the water storage levels in the system drop during one 24-hour period.
  - 4) Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
  - 5) The declaration of a state of disaster due to drought conditions in a county or counties served by the Corporation.
  - 6) Reduction of wholesale water supply due to drought conditions.
  - 7) Other unforeseen events which could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.

## **5. Stage Levels of Water Allocations**

The stage levels of water allocations are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Paragraph 4. The System shall institute monitoring and enforce penalties for violations of the Drought Plan for each of the Stages listed below. The water allocation measures are summarized below.

### **a. Stage I - Mild Conditions**

- 1) Alternate day, time of day, or duration restrictions for outside water usage allowed. (System will notify Customers which restriction is in effect)
- 2) The system will reduce flushing operations.
- 3) Reduction of customers' water use will be encouraged through notices on bills or other method.

### **b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions**

- 1) All outside water use is prohibited (except for a livestock or other exemption or variance granted under this section).

- 2) Make public service announcements as conditions change via local media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.).

**c. Stage III - Severe Conditions**

- 1) All outside watering prohibited.
- 2) Water use will be restricted to a percentage of each member's prior month usage. This percentage may be adjusted as needed according to demand on the system. Notice of this amount will be sent to each customer.
- 3) Corporation shall continue enforcement and educational efforts.

**NOTE:**

- Refer to your water purchase contract for additional restrictions/requirements that may be imposed by stipulations from the wholesale supplier.
- There may be additional restrictions imposed by Governmental Entities.
- Meters will be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.

**6. *Initiation and Termination Procedures***

Once a trigger condition occurs, the Corporation, or its designated responsible representative, shall, based on recommendation from the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee, decide if the appropriate stage of water use restrictions shall be initiated. The initiation may be delayed if there is a reasonable possibility the water system performance will not be compromised by the condition. If water allocation is to be instituted, written notice to the customers shall be given.

Written notice of the proposed water use restrictions measure shall be mailed or delivered to each affected customer upon the initiation of each stage. Notice may be sent by email only if the customer chooses the option to receive email notices instead of mailed notices and provides a valid email address. In addition, upon adoption of Stage II or Stage III, a notice will be placed in a local newspaper or announced on a local radio or television station. The customer notice shall contain the following information: