

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, bill stuffers, 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 four 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 Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group, 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. Lake Belton surface elevation reaches 588.1 feet mean sea level.
2. When Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation implements Stage I restrictions.
3. When Clearwater Underground Water District implements Stage I restrictions.
4. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds 0.750 million gallons for 30 consecutive days.

Requirements for termination

Stage I of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days or contingent upon existing drought stage conditions for Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation.

b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions: Stage II water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following conditions exist:

1. Lake Belton surface elevation reaches 578.7 feet mean sea level.
2. When Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation implements Stage II restrictions.
3. When Clearwater Underground Water District implements Stage II restrictions.
4. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds 0.800 million gallons for 30 consecutive days.

Requirements for termination

Stage II of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days or contingent upon existing drought stage conditions for Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation.

c. Stage III - Severe Conditions: Stage III water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following five conditions exist:

1. Lake Belton surface elevation reaches 566.3 feet mean sea level.
2. When Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation implements Stage III restrictions.
3. When Clearwater Underground Water District implements Stage III restrictions.
4. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds 0.850 million gallons for 30 consecutive days.

Requirements for termination

Stage III of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days or contingent upon existing drought stage conditions for Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation.

d. Stage IV - Emergency Conditions: Stage IV water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following five conditions exist:

1. Lake Belton surface elevation reaches 550.2 feet mean sea level.
2. When Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation implements Stage IV restrictions.
3. When Clearwater Underground Water District implements Stage IV restrictions.
4. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds 0.950 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
5. When production or delivery of drinking water has been significantly impacted.

Requirements for termination

Stage IV of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days or contingent upon existing drought stage conditions for Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation.

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. Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.
2. The system will reduce flushing operations.
3. Reduction of customers' water use will be made through bill notices or other media outlets.

b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the

hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.

2. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rises. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
3. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
4. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
5. Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the Corporation.
6. The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
 - wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
 - use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
 - use of water for dust control;
 - flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
 - failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

c. Stage III - Severe Conditions – all requirements of Stage II shall remain in effect during Stage III:

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip irrigation, or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system only. The use of hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
2. The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit shall be discontinued.

d. **Stage IV - Emergency Conditions** – all requirements of Stage II and III shall remain in effect during Stage IV:

1. All outdoor use of water is prohibited except for livestock or special permit from the Corporation.

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 Stages II, III and IV, 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:

- a. The date water restriction shall begin;
- b. the expected duration;
- c. the stage (level) of water allocations to be employed;
- d. penalty for violations of the water allocation program; and
- e. affected area or areas.

If the water allocation program extends 30 days, then the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee or manager shall present the reasons for the allocations at the next scheduled Board Meeting and shall request the concurrence of the Board to extend the allocation period.

When the trigger condition no longer exists then the responsible official may terminate the water allocations provided that such an action is based on sound judgment. Written notice of the end of allocations shall be given to customers. A water allocation period may not exceed 60 days without extension by action of the Board.

7. *Penalties for Violations*

- a. **First Violation** - The Corporation will notify the customer by certified written notice of their specific violation and their need to comply with the MWSC Drought Contingency Plan. The notice will show the amount of penalty to be assessed for continued violation(s).

- b. **Second Violation** - The Corporation will assess a penalty* of \$50. The notice of second violation will show the amount of penalty to be assessed and will inform the customer that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service to be restored only upon payment of penalty and service call to restore service. The notice will also inform the customer that additional violations will trigger more severe penalties and may result in termination of service regardless of whether the customer pays the penalties.
- c. **Subsequent Violations** - The Corporation will assess an additional penalty* of \$100 for violations continuing after the Second Violation. The notice of subsequent violation will show the amount of the penalty to be assessed and will inform the violator that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service to be restored only upon payment of penalty and service call to restore service.
- d. **Termination** - For each continuing violation, the Corporation will assess an additional penalty of \$150. Service will also be terminated for a period of three (3) days. The notice of termination will show the date on which water service will be terminated and the date on which service will be restored, unless the customer has failed to pay delinquent penalties, assessments, or charges. Service will remain off until any delinquent penalty or other assessment is fully paid including a charge for the service call to restore service.

These provisions apply to all customers of the Corporation.

NOTE: PENALTY * - A WSC is allowed to charge a reasonable penalty to customers that fail to comply with the water use restriction procedures in accordance with [16 TAC 24.101 \(j\)](#) and [Texas Water Code 67.011\(b\)](#) if:

- **The penalty is clearly stated in the tariff;**
- **The penalty is reasonable and does not exceed six (6) times the minimum monthly bill stated in the water supply corporation's current tariff; and**
- **The water supply corporation has deposited the penalty in a separate account dedicated to enhancing water supply for the benefit of all the water supply corporation's customers.**

8. Exemptions or Waivers

The Drought/Emergency Management Committee may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health or sanitation for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a. Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.

Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use. Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Plan shall file a petition for variance with the Drought/Emergency Management Committee within five (5) days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked or after a condition justifying the variance first occurs. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Committee and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Plan.
- Description of the relief requested.
- Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- Other pertinent information, as requested by the Committee.

Variations granted by the Committee shall be subject to the following conditions, unless specifically waived or modified by the Committee or Board of Directors:

- Variations granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- Variations granted shall expire when the water allocation is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements. No variance allowed for a condition requiring water allocation will continue beyond the termination of water allocation under Section F. Any variance for a subsequent water allocation must be petitioned again. The fact that a variance has been granted in response to a petition will have no relevance to the Committee's decision on any subsequent petition.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

9. *Implementation*

The Board establishes a Drought/Emergency Management Committee by Resolution, the chairperson of which will be the responsible representative to make Drought and Emergency Water Management actions. This Committee will review the procedures in this plan annually or more frequently. Modifications may be required to accommodate system growth, changes in water use demand, available water supply and/or other circumstances.

This plan was adopted by the Board at a properly noticed meeting held on April 17, 2023.



Lafonda Brown, Board President