

**SECTION H
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 rationing program. As used herein the term "District" means the Parker County Special Utility District.

A Drought/Emergency Management Committee consisting of two Board Members and the District 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 always be conserved, 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 District's 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 rationing as imposed by the Board. Section D 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 Parker and Palo Pinto Counties, 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 0 – No Water Conditions: District recognizes that no water shortage condition exist when:

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is more than 13,780 acre-feet or 860 ft. MSL (50% of storage capacity).
2. PCSUD water treatment plant has no major mechanical issues
3. BRA has no restrictions in place.

b. Stage I - Mild Conditions: Stage I water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is equal to or less than 13,780 acre-feet or 860 ft. MSL (50% of storage capacity) and more than 6,279 acre feet or 854 ft. MSL.
2. Water consumption has reached 80 percent of daily maximum supply for three (3) consecutive days.
3. Water supply is reduced to a level that is only 20 percent greater than the average consumption for the previous month.
4. 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.
5. Any mechanical failure of pumping equipment which will require more than 24 hours to repair when no water shortage conditions exist.
6. Requirements for termination – Stage I of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage I, Stage 0 becomes operative. The District will notify its customers of the termination of Stage I.

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

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is equal to or less than 6,279 acre-feet or 854 ft. MSL (25% of storage capacity) and more than 3,392 acre feet or 849 ft. MSL.
2. Water consumption has reached 90 percent of the amount available for three consecutive days.
3. The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for three (3) consecutive days.
4. Requirements for termination – Stage II of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage II, Stage I becomes operative.

d. 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 for 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 District.
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.
8. **Requirements for termination** - Stage III of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days. **Upon termination of Stage III, Stage II becomes operative.**

5. STAGE LEVELS OF WATER ALLOCATIONS

The stage levels of water allocations are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Section 4. The District 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.

Golf courses – Golf courses shall not irrigate roughs or fairways with potable water or other water supplied by the District, during any Drought Stage of Stage I or higher. Additionally, all requirements applicable to irrigation of landscape areas shall apply equally to golf course irrigation.

Wholesale Water Buyers – For Drought Stages of Stage I or higher, each wholesale buyer of water from the District shall be required to reduce their take of water by the reduction goal of the applicable Stage. For example, for Stage II the reduction goal is 25%. The actual reduction in volumes for a particular month for any individual buyer shall be based upon the three (3) year historical average volume of water purchased from the District for that month of the year. The reduction goal shall then be applied to the three-year historical average for the buyer, and may be implemented on a daily or hourly basis, if so required by the District.

a. Stage 0 – No Water Shortage Conditions

1. Unattended irrigation of landscaped areas will be permitted two (2) days per week according to the last digit of your street address. Even addresses may water on Monday and Thursday. Odd addresses may water on Tuesday and Friday, with no unattended landscape watering on Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday. Other outside water use will be permitted on any day of the week.
2. No irrigation of landscaped areas shall occur on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
3. Hand watering of landscape, shrubs, gardens, and grass is permissible on any day, subject to time of day restrictions.
4. Encourage voluntary 10% reduction of water use.

b. Stage I - Mild Conditions

1. Unattended irrigation or sprinkler lawn watering is permitted only ONCE a week on your designated day and is NOT allowed between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. according to the last digit of your street address.
0 and 1: Monday 2 and 3: Tuesday 4 and 5: Wednesday
6 and 7: Thursday 8 and 9: Friday

No outside watering on Saturday or Sunday or between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

2. All requirements of Stage 0 remain in effect, except all the following restrictions additionally apply:
3. Alternate day, time of day, or duration restrictions for irrigation of landscaped areas and outside water usage allowed. (District will notify customers which restriction is in effect)
4. The system will reduce flushing operations.
5. Reductions of customers water use will be encouraged through notices on bills or other method.
6. Goal is to achieve a 20% reduction in total use.

c. Stage II - Moderate Conditions

1. All irrigation of landscaped areas and outside water use is prohibited (except for livestock variances).
2. Make public service announcements as conditions change via local media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.).
3. Goal is to achieve a 25% reduction in total use.

d. Stage III - Severe Conditions

1. All irrigation of landscaped areas and outside watering is 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. District 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 other Governmental Entities. Meters will be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.
4. Goal is to achieve a 30% reduction in total use.

6. INITIATION AND TERMINATION PROCEDURES

Once a trigger condition occurs, the District, or its designated responsible representative, shall, based on recommendation from the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee, decide if the appropriate stage of rationing 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 allocation measure shall be mailed or delivered to each affected customer upon the initiation of each stage. 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:

- a. The date water allocation 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 customer/member will be notified by a written notice of their specific violation.
- b. **Second Violation** - The District may install a flow restricting device in the customer's service line to limit the amount of water that will pass through the meter in a 24 hour period. The cost of this shall be the actual cost to do the work and shall be paid by the customer.
- c. **Subsequent Violations** - The District may terminate service for up to 7 days and charge for the service call to restore service.

These provisions apply to all customers of the District.

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.
- b. 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 Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the Drought/Emergency Management Committee within 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.

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

Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.

Variances 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 **May 19, 2022**.