

EMERGENCY AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

*Revised February 21, 2022
Board Approval March 21, 2022*

Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the Central Washington County Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Emergency and Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered to be nonessential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section XI of this Plan).

Section II: Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the initial Plan was provided by the Corporation by means of customer mail outs and annual meetings. This revised Plan is posted on the Corporation's website www.washingtoncountywater.com.

Section III: Public Education

The Corporation will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be Initiated or terminated and the response measures to be implemented in each stage. This Information will be provided by means of the County's Emergency Response System, posting on the Corporation's website, customer mail outs, annual meetings, and bill inserts.

Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of the Corporation is located within the Brazos Region Water Planning Area and the Corporation has provided a copy of the initial Plan to the Brazos River Authority, although Washington County is not a member of the Brazos River Authority.

Section V: Authorization

The President of the Corporation Board of Directors (the Board), or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Board

President or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

Section VI: Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the Corporation. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

Section VII: Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and nonprofit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person or organization using water supplied by the Corporation.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

Nonessential water use: water uses that are neither essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- a. irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- b. use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- c. use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard surfaced areas;

- d. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- e. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- f. use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or jacuzzi type pools;
- g. use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- h. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- i. use of water from flush valves for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting.
- j. Discontinue flushing of lines for duration of event

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

Section VIII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Plan Response Stages

The President of the Board or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a weekly basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified "triggers" are reached.

The triggering criteria described below are based on water consumption and storage capacities.

Stage 1 Triggers – MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for Initiation

Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII - Definitions, when total daily water demand equals or exceeds 400,000 gallons for 7 consecutive days or 600,000 gallons on a single day.

Requirements for Termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days.

Stage 2 Triggers – MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses provided in Section IX of this Plan when the total daily water demand equals or exceeds 600,000 gallons for 7 days or 800,000 gallons on a single day.

Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

Stage 3 Triggers – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses for Stage 3 of this Plan when total daily water demands equals or exceeds 800,000 gallons for 7 consecutive days or 1,000,000 gallons on a single day.

Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

Stage 4 Triggers – CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses for Stage 4 of this Plan when total daily water demands equals or exceeds 1 million gallons for 7 consecutive days or 1.25 million gallons on a single day.

Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

Stage 5 Triggers – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions and Water Allocation

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when Board President, or his/her designee, determines that a water supply emergency exists based on:

1. Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service; or
2. Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).

Requirements for termination

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 2 consecutive days.

Note: The inclusion of WATER ALLOCATION as part of an emergency and drought contingency plan may not be required in all cases. For example, for a given water supplier, an analysis of water supply availability under drought of record conditions may indicate that there is essentially no risk of water supply shortage. Hence, a contingency plan for such a water supplier might only address facility capacity limitations and emergency conditions (e.g., supply source contamination and system capacity limitations).

Section IX: Drought Response Stages

The President of the Board, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this Plan, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical emergency or water shortage condition exists and shall implement the following notification procedures:

Notification

Notification of the Public

The President of the Board or his/ her designee shall notify the public by means of publication in a newspaper of general circulation, enactment of the Washington County's Emergency Response System, posting on the Corporation's website, direct mail to each customer public service announcements,

Additional Notification

The President of the Board or his/ her designee shall notify directly or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

- TCEQ (required when mandatory restrictions are imposed)
- Major water users
- VFD Fire Chiefs

Note: The plan should specify direct notice only as appropriate to respective Plan stages.

Stage 1 Response – MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Achieve a voluntary 20 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Measures

Describe measures, if any, to be implemented directly by Corporation to manage limited water supplies and/or reduce water demand. Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, activation and use of an alternative supply.

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions

- a. 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 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.
- b. All operations of the Corporation shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 2 of the Plan.
- c. Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for nonessential purposes.

Stage 2 Response – MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a 25 percent reduction in dally water demand.

Supply Management Measures

Describe measures, if any, to be implemented directly by Corporation to manage limited water supplies and/or reduce water demand. Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of an alternative supply source(s).

Water Use Restrictions

Under threat of penalty for violation, the following water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

- a. 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 8:00 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 handheld hose, a faucet filled bucket or watering can of 5 gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
- b. 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 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a handheld bucket or a handheld 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.
- c. 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 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight
- d. 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.
- e. Use of water from flush valves 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 flush valves for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the Central Washington County Water Supply Corporation.
- f. Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the Corporation, the facility shall not be subject to these regulations.

- g. All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.
- h. The following uses of water are defined as nonessential and are prohibited:
 - 1) wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard surfaced areas;
 - 2) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
 - 3) use of water for dust control;
 - 4) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
 - 5) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

Stage 3 Response – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a 30 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Measures

Describe measures, if any, to be implemented directly by the Corporation to manage limited water supplies and/or reduce water demand: Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of an alternative supply source(s).

Water Use Restrictions

All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 except:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 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.
- b. The watering of golf course tees is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the Corporation.
- c. The use of water for construction purposes from designated flush valves under special permit is to be discontinued.

Stage 4 Response – CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a 35 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Measures

Describe measures, if any, to be implemented directly by Central Washington County Water Supply Corporation to manage limited water supplies and/or reduce water demand, reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of an alternative supply source(s).

Water Use Restrictions

All requirements of Stage 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 except:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of midnight and 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.
- b. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare is prohibited. Further, such vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations shall occur only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 6:00 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- c. The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.
- d. 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.
- e. No application for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be approved, and time limits for approval of such applications are hereby suspended for such time as this emergency or drought response stage or a higher-numbered stage shall be in effect.

Stage 5 Response – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions and Water Allocation

Goal: Achieve a 35 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Supply Management Measures

Describe measures, if any, to be implemented directly by the Corporation to manage limited water supplies and/or reduce water demand. Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of an alternative supply source(s).

Water Use Restrictions

All requirements of Stage 2, 3, and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 except:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
- b. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the President of the Board is hereby authorized to allocate water according to the following water allocation plan:

The allocation to water customers shall be as follows:

Each customer shall be allocated a monthly volume equal to 110% of the average volume billed to such customer during the 12-month period immediately preceding the implementation of a Stage response.

Section X: Enforcement

No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the Corporation for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the Plan response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by the Board President or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.

Any person violates this plan of allocation shall be charged a surcharge of \$20 per 1,000 gallons for every thousand gallons over their allocation. If a person does not pay this surcharge in the allowed time after a bill is due, water service must be terminated.

Services terminated shall be restored upon payment of bill and a surcharge and a reconnection fee of \$75 and any other cost incurred by Corporation in the termination of service.

Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the Corporation in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation.

Section XI: Variances

The President of the Board, or his/her designee, 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, sanitation, or fire protection 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 Corporation within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the President of the Board, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- a. Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- b. Purpose of water use.
- c. Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- d. 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 Ordinance.
- e. Description of the relief requested.
- f. Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- g. 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.
- h. Other pertinent information.

Variations granted by the Corporation shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the Board of Directors or his/her designee:

- a. Variations granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- b. Variations granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.
- c. No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.