Plan for Drought Contingency and Emergency Conditions

PWS ID 0460019 (Canyon Lake Shores)
PWS ID 0460172 (Triple Peak)
PWS ID 0460246 (Glenwood)
PWS ID 04600220 (Summit North)
PWS ID 0460235 (North Point)

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# Table of Contents

1. Responsible Officials .................................................................................. 1  
2. Introduction and Purpose ......................................................................... 1  
3. Purpose ....................................................................................................... 1  
4. Application .................................................................................................. 1  
5. Customer Class Definition ....................................................................... 1  
   I. Retail ...................................................................................................... 1  
   II. Bulk Water ........................................................................................... 1  
   III. Wholesale ............................................................................................. 1  
6. Implementation ............................................................................................ 1  
7. Public Involvement .................................................................................... 2  
8. Public Awareness ....................................................................................... 2  
9. Demand Management Program .................................................................. 2  
   I. Year-Round Rules .................................................................................. 2  
      Athletic Fields ....................................................................................... 2  
      Hotels/Motels ....................................................................................... 2  
      General Landscape Watering ............................................................... 2  
      Eating Establishments .......................................................................... 3  
      Pools ..................................................................................................... 3  
      Golf Courses .......................................................................................... 3  
      Fire Hydrants ....................................................................................... 3  
   II. Stage 1 - Mild Conditions ...................................................................... 3  
      9.II.i Initiating Drought Stage 1 ............................................................ 3  
      9.II.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions .................................. 3  
   III. Stage 2 - Moderate Conditions ............................................................ 4  
      9.III.i Initiating Drought Stage 2 ............................................................ 4  
      9.III.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions .................................. 4  
   IV. Stage 3 - Severe Conditions .................................................................. 4  
      9.IV.i Initiating Drought Stage 3 ............................................................ 4  
      9.IV.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions .................................. 4  
   V. Stage 4 - Critical Conditions .................................................................. 5  
      9.V.i Initiating Drought Stage 4 ............................................................. 5  
      9.V.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions .................................. 5  
10. Emergency Stage (Supply Management) .................................................. 6  
   10.I. Initiating and Terminating Emergency Conditions ............................ 6  
   10.II. Response Measures and Target Reductions ....................................... 6  
11. Pro Rata Water Allocation ........................................................................... 6  
12. Penalties for Violations ............................................................................. 6  
   12.1 Retail ................................................................................................... 6  
   12.2 Wholesale and Bulk Water Customers .............................................. 7  
13. Exemptions or Waivers ............................................................................. 7  
   13.1 Retail ................................................................................................... 7  
   13.2 Wholesale and Bulk Water Customers .............................................. 7  
14. Implementation ........................................................................................... 8  
15. Wholesale Water Customer Education ..................................................... 8  
16. Severability ................................................................................................ 8
Plan for Drought Contingency and Emergency Conditions

1. Responsible Officials

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2. Introduction and Purpose

The Drought Contingency Plan (“the Plan”) dictates the implementation of water use restrictions designed to achieve immediate reductions in water use; such reductions are needed to manage and mitigate against drought and/or emergency conditions. Such conditions may occur as a result of demand- or supply-side challenges. The degree of restriction imposed correlates to the severity of the triggering condition.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to identify clear strategies for maintaining safe and reliable water supply for CLWSC’s communities in the face of drought and/or other emergency conditions. The Plan is structured to meet or exceed requirements for continuous and adequate service during drought and/or emergency conditions as established by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

4. Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all customers utilizing water provided by the following CLWSC water systems: 0460019 (Canyon Lake Shores); 0460172 (Triple Peak); 0460246 (Glenwood); 04600220 (Summit North); and 0460235 (North Point). The terms “a person and customer” as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, wholesale and all other legal entities.

5. Customer Class Definition

I. Retail

A single family residential, any person, firm, partnership, corporation, municipality, cooperative, organization, or governmental agency to which drinking water is provided with services by any retail public utility.

II. Bulk Water

A volume of water intended for potable uses which is stored and transported in a portable tank or vessel. The physical transport of drinking water, by a vehicle having a permanently mounted or detachable water tank (e.g. tanker truck or “water buffalo”), from an approved source of supply for the purpose of human consumption. The transport vehicle may have pumps, hoses, and other equipment for distribution of drinking water.

III. Wholesale

A specific contractual agreement between an individual and/or entity that for compensation supplies water to another for resale to the public for human consumption. Every wholesale water contract entered into or renewed after adoption of the plan, including contract extensions, that in case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water to be distributed shall be divided in accordance with Texas Water Code, §11.039.”

6. Implementation

The President or their designee has the authority to implement the Plan. Implementation will be in accordance with the stages of drought or emergency conditions as outlined in the Plan and in conjunction with the Drought Contingency Plans of the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (“the GBRA”), the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (“the CTGCD”), and any other groundwater conservation district that may develop Drought Contingency Plans relevant to those systems stated in section 4. Application, above.

The General Manager will monitor usage patterns, surface water and groundwater (aquifer) levels, and weather conditions in order to identify when a triggering condition occurs and to make recommendations to the President regarding Plan implementation.

Once a triggering criteria occurs CLWSC will implement the corresponding restrictions stated in this Plan. The initiation of a Stage may be delayed if there is a reasonable possibility the water system performance will not be compromised by the condition. At minimum, written notice to the retail and wholesale customers will be issued when entering a Stage. Other forms a notice may include: e-mail, mail (included in bill), media (local newspaper, radio, television), and telephone.

Notice will include the following information:

a) The date rationing shall begin
b) The expected duration
c) The Stage Level of rationing to be employed

d) Penalty for violations of the rationing program

e) Identification of the affected area

Stages will be terminated based on sustained improvements in the triggering criteria as stated below. The General Manager may suspend or modify the restriction based on their sound professional judgment in finding that the triggering criteria that resulted in entering a Stage no longer exists and it is deemed unlikely the same or a different triggering criteria would occur immediately after suspension or modification. Written notice of the changes in the restrictions shall be provided to retail and wholesale customers, media, etc. Upon termination of a Drought Stage, the preceding Stage becomes operative. A restriction period may not exceed 60 consecutive days without extension by the President or the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). If the restriction period extends beyond the expected duration stated in the notice or longer than 60 days, the General Manager shall notify the public of the reason(s) for the extension and identify a revised expected duration timeline.

The drought and emergency conditions, as they exist, will dictate the stage of the Plan to be implemented. Though drought and emergency conditions covered by this Plan are defined below, CLWSC may elect to enter a Stage or impose additional restrictions for reasons not expressly stated in this Plan if it is determined after consulting with regulatory agencies and/or regional utilities that entering a Stage is necessary to support regional resources.

7. Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to input on the Plan. The meeting took place at the Tye Preston Memorial Library on September 25, 2013 at 10:00 am with the invitation printed in the message section of customer’s water bill.

8. Public Awareness

CLWSC staff will develop public awareness notices, bill stuffers, and other methods of communication that will provide ongoing education to the community regarding the importance of conservation. The Plan will be submitted to the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) and to GBRA for review and comment. The Plan will be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis of every five years unless conditions call for more frequent amendments.

9. Demand Management Program

1. Year-Round Rules

Year-round rules exist for certain uses that can be better-managed regardless of the presence of drought conditions. Those rules are categorized below. In addition, CLWSC has a prohibition on Water Waste, independent of any Stage or condition. For purposes of this Plan, Water Waste means:

Any intentional, known, or negligent act that results in or causes a non-beneficial use of water. This includes, but is not limited to: non-emergency landscape watering outside designated watering times; failure to repair a controllable leak; water runoff or overspray onto impervious surfaces from a sprinkler, irrigation system, or hose; landscape watering during or shortly after a rain; any use that violates or contradicts restrictions imposed under the conditions stated in this Plan.

Athletic Fields

Watering should follow a no more than twice per week schedule per irrigated area unless the athletic fields are used for organized sports practice, competition, or exhibition events when irrigation outside of the standard weekly schedule is necessary to protect the health and safety of the players, staff, or officials present for the athletic event.

All ornamental landscape areas around facilities with athletic fields shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions.

Hotels/Motels

The owner or operator of a hotel, motel short term rental or other establishment that offers or provides lodging or rental accommodations for compensation are encouraged to offer a towel and linen reuse water conservation option to its lodgers, renters, or customers and maintain in each applicable guest room, suite, or property informational signage to communicate information relating to this requirement and to offer the opportunity for guest participation.

General Landscape Watering

Unless supplanted by Drought or Emergency State conditions, landscape watering done by automatic, in-ground, or sprinkler systems is limited to two days per week according to the street address as follows:

- If the last digit of the address ends in:
  0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 irrigation days are Monday and Thursday.

- If the last digit of the address ends in:
  1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 irrigation days are Tuesday and Friday.

- If there is no street address associated with the property, such as a parkway, or if there is more than one street address associated with a single contiguous property the irrigation days are Monday and Friday.
Weekend Watering is not permitted, other than hand watering, or by soaker hose, bucket, and drip irrigation.

All landscape watering should occur between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m, unless otherwise state by CLWSC as needed.

Eating Establishments
Restaurants, bars, and other commercial food or beverage establishments are encouraged not to provide drinking water to customers unless a specific request is made by the customer for drinking water.

Pools
Draining and re-filling is permitted only onto pervious surfaces or onto a surface where water will be transmitted directly to a pervious surface, and only if:

1. Draining excess water from pool due to rain in order to lower water to maintenance level;
2. Repairing, maintaining or replacing pool components that have become hazardous; or
3. Repair of a pool leak.

Public/community swimming pools are allowed to fill or replenish water in order to maintain safe levels of water quality for human contact and for maintenance as outlined above.

Golf Courses
Golf courses should either develop a drought contingency plan that meets the minimum water reduction target set for each of the Drought Stages.

Fire Hydrants
In all stages of drought, the use of water from fire hydrants shall be prohibited for landscape irrigation, filling pools, operating fountains, car washing. Water should be transported only for the purposes of firefighting or providing minimal water needed for indoor use where auxiliary sources are inadequate and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare, or for construction use. Transport of water other than for firefighting requires a variance and a meter.

II. Stage 1- Mild Conditions

9.II.i Initiating Drought Stage 1

Initiation: Customers shall adhere to the Stage 1 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:

a) Water consumption has reached 80 percent of daily maximum production for three consecutive days.
b) Water supply is reduced to a level that is only 20 percent greater than the average consumption for the previous month.
c) There is an extended period (at least (8) weeks) of below normal rainfall and daily usage has risen 20 percent above the usage for the same period during the previous year.
d) Canyon Reservoir water surface elevation drops to a level of 895 ft. msl or lower.

9.II.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions

a) Reduction Goal: 5% reduction in total water use

b) Response Measures

Restrictions
All requirements of year-round rules are also in effect during Stage 1 with the following modifications and additions:

1. CLWSC should reduce flushing operations.
2. CLWSC will raise awareness about opportunities for voluntary conservation and increase education efforts
3. If needed, all landscape watering may be further restricted to certain times of day and certain durations.

Engagement
1. CLWSC should increase customer communications and alerts regarding Stage I conditions.
2. CLWSC should encourage retail customers to voluntarily reduce consumption in other ways.
3. The President or their designee(s) may contact wholesale and bulk water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and to request that wholesale and bulk water customers initiate voluntary measures to reduce water use (e.g., implement Stage 1 of the customer’s Drought Contingency plan).
III. Stage 2 – Moderate Conditions

9.III.i Initiating Drought Stage 2

Initiation: Customers shall adhere to the Stage 2 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:

a) Water consumption has reached 90 percent of the available production capacity for three consecutive days.

b) Canyon Reservoir water surface elevation drops to a level of 890 ft. msl or lower.

9.III.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions

a) Reduction Goal: 10% reduction in total water use

b) Response Measures

Restrictions

All requirements from year-round rules through Stage 1 are also in effect during Stage 2 with the following modifications and additions:

- All landscape watering for residential and commercial properties irrigation with a sprinkler or irrigation system is reduced to once a week according to the following, and may be subject to additional time-of-day and durational restrictions:
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 0,2, or 4 the irrigation day is Monday.
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 6 or 8, the irrigation day is Thursday.
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 1 or 3, the irrigation day is Tuesday
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 5,7 or 9, the irrigation day is Friday.
  - If there is no street address associated with the property, such as a parkway, or if there is more than one street address associated with a single contiguous property, the irrigation day is Monday.

Engagement

- CLWSC should increase customer communications and alerts regarding Stage 2 conditions.
- CLWSC should begin targeted outreach to high-use areas.
- CLWSC should encourage retail customers to voluntarily reduce consumption in other ways.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate weekly contact with wholesale and bulk water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and the possibility of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may request wholesale and bulk water customers to initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use.

IV. Stage 3 – Severe Conditions

9.IV.i Initiating Drought Stage 3

Initiation: Customers shall adhere to the Stage 3 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:

a) Water consumption has reached 95 percent or more of the maximum production capacity for three consecutive days.

b) Water consumption of 100 percent of the maximum production capacity and water storage levels in the system are unable to recover in one 24-hour period.

c) Canyon Reservoir water surface elevation drops to a level of 880 ft. msl or lower.

9.IV.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions

a) Reduction Goal: 15% reduction in total water use

b) Response Measures

Restrictions
All requirements from year-round rules through Stage 2 are also in effect during Stage 3 with the following modifications and additions:

- All landscape watering for residential and commercial properties irrigation with a sprinkler or irrigation system is reduced to every other week beginning the second Monday of the month after Stage 3 conditions have been declared according to the following schedule, and may be subject to additional time-of-day and durational restrictions:
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 0, 2, or 4 the irrigation day is Monday.
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 6 or 8, the irrigation day is Thursday.
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 1 or 3, the irrigation day is Tuesday.
  - If the last digit of the address ends in: 5, 7 or 9, the irrigation day is Friday.
  - If there is no street address associated with the property, such as a parkway, or if there is more than one street address associated with a single contiguous property, the irrigation day is Monday.

**Engagement**

- CLWSC should increase customer communications and alerts regarding Stage 3 conditions.
- CLWSC should increase and expand targeted outreach to high-use areas.
- CLWSC should encourage retail customers to voluntarily reduce consumption in other ways.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate weekly contact with wholesale and bulk water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and the possibility of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries.
- Wholesale and bulk water customers shall initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate preparations for the implementation of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries by preparing a monthly water usage allocation baseline for each wholesale and bulk water customer according to the procedures specified in the plan.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate use of alternative water sources and/or alternative delivery mechanisms with the prior approval of the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as appropriate (e.g., interconnection with another water system, temporary use of a non-municipal water supply, use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes, etc.).

V. Stage 4 – Critical Conditions

9.V.i Initiating Drought Stage 4
Whenever critical water shortage conditions exist, the President shall:

a) Assess the severity of the problem and identify the actions needed and time required to solve the problem.

b) Inform the utility director or other responsible official of each wholesale and bulk water customer by telephone or in person and suggest actions, as appropriate, to alleviate problems (e.g., notification of the public to reduce water use until service is restored).

c) If appropriate, notify city, county, and/or state emergency response officials for assistance.

d) Undertake necessary actions, including repairs and/or clean-up as needed.

e) Prepare a post-event assessment report on the incident and critique of emergency response procedures and actions.

9.V.ii Response Measures and Target Reductions

a) Reduction Goal: 20% reduction in total water use

b) Response Measures

Restrictions
All requirements from year-round rules through Stage 3 are also in effect during Stage 4, with the following modifications and additions:

- All outside water use is prohibited, except for uses necessary to sustain livestock.
- Any additional restrictions or measures deemed necessary to protect public health and safety.
Engagement
- CLWSC should increase customer communications and alerts regarding Stage 4 conditions.
- CLWSC should increase targeted outreach to high-use areas.
- CLWSC should encourage retail customers to voluntarily reduce consumption in other ways.

- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate weekly contact with wholesale and bulk water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and the possibility of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries.
- Wholesale and bulk water customers shall initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may implement pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries by preparing a monthly water usage allocation baseline for each wholesale and bulk water customer according to the procedures specified in the plan.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate use of alternative water sources and/ or alternative delivery mechanisms with the prior approval of the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as appropriate (e.g., interconnection with another water system, temporary use of a non-municipal water supply, use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes, etc.)."

10. Emergency Stage (Supply Management)

10.I. Initiating and Terminating Emergency Conditions

Initiation:
- a) 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; or
- b) The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be adequately replenished for three consecutive days; or
- c) Emergency conditions declared by the GBRA that may impact CLWSC customers; or
- d) System and/or system component failures such as major water line breaks, insufficient treatment plant conditions, or major pump failures, and related; or
- e) Any system failure occurs while in a Drought Stage; or
- f) Other unforeseen events which could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public such as contamination events.

Termination may occur when: CLWSC determines that the triggering criteria is resolved, is unlikely to occur again within 7 days, and no other triggering criteria are likely to occur.

10.II. Response Measures and Target Reductions

Response Measures

Restrictions: Any combination of the restrictions stated in this plan may be put in place in order to manage emergency conditions in a way that prevents any harm to public health or safety. Restrictions will be determined by the potential impact of the condition on customers. The General Manager has authority to institute any additional restrictions not stated in this Plan if necessary to manage the impact of emergency conditions.

Engagement
- CLWSC should ramp up customer communications and alerts regarding the triggering criteria and CLWSC’s response to those criteria.
- The President, or his/her designee(s), may initiate use of alternative water sources and/ or alternative delivery mechanisms with the prior approval of the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as appropriate (e.g., interconnection with another water system, temporary use of a non-municipal water supply, use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes, etc.)."

11. Pro Rata Water Allocation

In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section 9 of the Plan for Stage 3 Severe Water Shortage Conditions occur, the General Manager is hereby authorized initiate allocation of water supplies on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code Section 11.039.

12. Penalties for Violations

12.1 Retail

Customers will receive a warning letter for first violations, and a violation letter for second violations. CLWSC may, at its discretion, install a flow restrictor in the customer’s service line for the second or subsequent violations. Flow restrictors may also be installed at
retail customer sites that have a pattern of repeated and/or continued violations of this Plan. Customers are responsible for the actual cost of removal and installation up to $100.00.

For a third and/or subsequent retail customer violations, CLWSC may terminate service for up to 7 consecutive days and charge the most current reconnection fee to restore service.

12.2 Wholesale and Bulk Water Customers

These provisions apply to all wholesale and bulk water customers of CLWSC.

During any period when pro rata allocation of available water supplies is in effect, wholesale customers shall pay the following surcharges on excess water diversions and/or deliveries:

- 150 percent of the normal water charge per acre-foot for water diversions and/or deliveries in excess of the monthly allocation up through 10 percent above the monthly allocation.
- 200 percent of the normal water charge per acre-foot for water diversions and/or deliveries in excess of the monthly allocation more than 10 percent above the monthly allocation.
- The above surcharges shall be cumulative.

13. Exemptions or Waivers

13.1 Retail

CLWSC may grant exemptions or waivers for individuals that can demonstrate just cause for outside or other uses of water other than those permitted by this Rationing Program. Some examples may include no other source of water for livestock, for business purposes, for other planned construction or improvements already in progress at the time notice is given, etc. Such exemptions are granted at the discretion of CLWSC. Landscape variances may be available in limited circumstances and where certain criteria are met. Variances are not available while CLWSC is in any Stage stated in this Plan.

13.2 Wholesale and Bulk Water Customers

The President, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant a temporary variance to the pro rata water allocation policies provided by this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the public health, welfare, or safety 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 Plan shall file a petition for variance with the General Manager within 5 business days after pro rata allocation has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by CLWSC. Petitions shall include the following:

a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).

b) Detailed statement with supporting data and information as to how the pro rata allocation of water under the policies and procedures established in the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.

c) Description of the relief requested.

d) Period of time for which the variance is sought.

e) Alternative measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.

f) Other pertinent information.

Variances granted by the CLWSC shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the CLWSC or its designee:

a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.

b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.
14. Implementation
CLWSC shall establish a Conservation Committee, the Chairperson of which will be the General Manager, and will be the responsible representative to implement the provisions of the Drought Contingency Plan. This committee should also review the procedures in this Plan annually so that modifications can be made to accommodate system growth.

15. Wholesale Water Customer Education
CLWSC will periodically provide wholesale water customers 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 drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of providing a copy of the Plan or periodically including information about the Plan with invoices for water sales.

16. Severability
It is hereby declared to be the intention of the CLWSC that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Plan are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Plan shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Plan, since the same would not have been enacted by the CLWSC without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.