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WATER CONSERVATION & DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

for the

WEST TRAVIS COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY AGENCY

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA) has developed this Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan (Plan) for its treated water utility systems to manage public water resources efficiently and to plan appropriate responses to emergency and drought conditions. This Plan fulfills requirements of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 30, §§288.2, 288.20 and 288.22, regarding water conservation and drought contingency planning for municipal water suppliers. Appendix A provides details on how the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan adheres to the TAC requirements for water conservation and drought contingency plans. The Plan recognizes that conservation is a valuable tool in managing water and wastewater utility systems. Water conservation can extend available water supplies; reduce the risk of shortage during periods of extreme drought; reduce water and wastewater utility operating costs; improve the reliability and quality of water utility service; reduce customer costs for water service; reduce wastewater flows; improve the performance of wastewater treatment systems; enhance water quality and protect the environment.

### **1.1 Authorization and Implementation**

The WTCPUA Board of Directors is authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan. The WTCPUA Board of Directors has the authority to initiate and terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

Further, the WTCPUA Board of Directors designates the General Manager to act as administrator of this Plan. The administrator will oversee the implementation of the program and will be responsible for ensuring that staff keeps adequate records for program verification. LCRA water conservation staff will assist with implementation of programs and projects described in this Plan.

### **1.2 Public Involvement**

This Plan is based on the *2014 Raw Water Conservation Plan*, the *2019 Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers*, the *2013 Drought Contingency Plan Rules for Water Sale Contracts*, and the *2015 Water Conservation Plan Rules for Water Sale Contracts*. All customers in the service area of the utilities were provided an opportunity for input through the LCRA and WTCPUA adoption processes. Any future revisions to this Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan will be made through a process that includes the opportunity for public participation.

### **1.3 Application**

This Plan applies to treated (potable) water utility systems, both wholesale and retail, owned and operated by WTCPUA.

## 1.4 Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of the WTCPUA is located within the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Area and WTCPUA will provide a copy of this Plan to LCRA, the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) and applicable governmental entities.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

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

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

**Agriculture water use:** water use for fruit and vegetable gardens.

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

**Customer:** any person, company, or organization using water supplied by WTCPUA.

**Domestic water use:** use of water by an individual or a household to support its domestic activity. Such use may include consumption, washing, or cooking; irrigation of lawns, family garden or orchard; consumption by animals; and recreation including fishing, swimming, and boating. If the water is diverted, it must be diverted solely through the efforts of the user. Domestic use does not include water used to support activities for which consideration is given or received or for which the product of the activity is sold.

**Industrial water use:** water used in commercial processes, including commercial fish and shellfish production and the development of power by means other than hydroelectric. This does not include agricultural use.

**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.

**Livestock water use:** water used for the open-range watering of livestock, exotic livestock, game animals or fur-bearing animals. For purposes of this definition, the terms "livestock" and "exotic livestock" are to be used as defined in § 142.001 of the Agriculture Code, and the terms "game animals" and "furbearing animals" are to be used as defined in §63.001 and §71.001, respectively, of the Parks and Wildlife Code.

**“New landscape” means:**

- a. Installed during construction of a new house, multi-family building, or commercial building;
- b. Installed as part of a governmental entity’s capital improvement project; or
- c. Alters more than one-half of the area of an existing landscape.

**Non-essential water use:** water uses that are not essential or are not required for the protection of public health, safety and welfare, such as:

- a. Irrigating landscape areas, including parks, , except for as otherwise provided under this Plan;
- b. Washing any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat trailer, airplane, or other vehicle;
- c. Washing any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- d. Washing 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. Filling, refilling, or adding to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- g. Filling a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except when necessary to support aquatic life; and
- h. Failure to repair a controllable leak within a reasonable period after having been directed to do so by formal notice.

Use of water for agriculture or livestock is not included in the definition of “non-essential water use.”

**Ornamental Landscaping:** Irrigated turf grass and other landscaping that is not regularly used for active and programmed recreational purposes such as sports fields, golf course areas used directly for sport (greens, tees, fairways, and practice areas), areas used for food production, maintaining cemeteries, maintaining the integrity of foundations, and preserving trees.

**Retail Water Customer:** an individual or entity that purchases water from an LCRA water utility for its consumption.

**Wholesale Treated Water Customer:** an individual or entity that purchases raw water from LCRA to sell to the public for consumption.

## **3.0 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN**

### **3.1 Service Area Characteristics and Goals**

The WTCPUA Water System provides water to about 9,000 commercial and residential customer accounts which represents an equivalent population of approximately 31,500. In addition, the WTCPUA Water System also provides water service for seventeen wholesale water customers with an estimated equivalent population approximately 45,400 for a total population served of approximately 76,900.

The WTCPUA Water System serves mostly single-family residential homes, although the number of multi-family, mixed-use, and commercial customers has grown significantly in the past five years. The service area generally consists of residential and commercial development west of the City of Austin— in and around the City of Bee Cave, along Hamilton Pool Road, and along State Highway 290 from Austin to the City of Dripping Springs.

The two- year average for total gallons per capita per day water use (GPCD) was 120 which includes both wholesale and retail treated water customers. Of the 120 GPCD, approximately 13 GPCD was attributable to unbilled water in 2023 (*e.g.*, losses, waterline & hydrant flushing, *etc.*), or 11 percent of total water use.

The water demands in this region more than triple during the summer months due to water for outdoor irrigation purposes. With this in mind, the WTCPUA has focused its conservation and demand management measures on outdoor water use and will continue to expand this effort to meet the growing need for water in this system.

### **3.2 Water Conservation Goals**

In accordance with Title 30 TAC, Chapter 288 rules, water conservation plans must have specific, quantified goals for municipal use in gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Water conservation goals for WTCPUA were established in 2014 using baseline data available at that time.

Conservation goals for the WTCPUA have been set for three metrics:

1. Total unit water use reduction (GPCD)
2. Peak day demand reduction (peak day/average day)
3. System-wide water loss reduction.

The five-year total unit water use reduction goal is five percent (5%), or a unit usage of 114 GPCD. The 10-year goal for total unit water use reduction is an additional five percent (5%), or a total unit usage of 108 GPCD.

The five-year, peak day demand reduction goal is ten percent (10%) or a peak day/average day ratio of 1.84. The ten-year goal for peak day demand reduction is an additional five percent, or a peak day annual average ratio of 1.75.

The water loss reduction goal is five percent (5%), or a total water loss 10.5% compared to a total water loss of 11% in 2023 as a percentage of total water produced at the water treatment plant (WTP).

### **3.3 Water Conservation Strategies**

The water conservation strategies to meet these goals include measures to decrease outdoor water use, which will decrease overall water use and peak day demands, and strategies to reduce system-wide water loss. Additional strategies include expanded public education and outreach efforts.

#### ***3.3.1 Watering Schedule***

In October 2014, the WTCPUA Board approved a plan to adopt a year-round, mandatory twice-weekly watering schedule for the West Travis County Regional Water System, to conserve water, and lower daily peak demand at the water treatment plant.

This schedule assumes an application rate of one inch of water per week in two half-inch applications. According to research, one inch of water per week is sufficient to sustain most residential lawns and landscapes. However, multiple applications on yards of shallow soil depth allow for less runoff and improved soil retention.

#### ***3.3.2 Increasing Block Water Rates***

The West Travis County Regional Water System has a multi-tiered, increasing block water rate that reflects the cost drivers for the water systems and sends a water conservation price signal to customers.

Copies of the complete rates schedules for these systems are available on the WTCPUA web site.

#### ***3.3.3 LCRA WaterSmart Rebates Program***

The WTCPUA promotes LCRA's WaterSmart Rebates program, which can help offset the cost of upgrading irrigation systems and maintaining landscapes and pools to help customers save water and money. LCRA provides rebates of 50 percent of the total cost, or up to \$600 per residential property, for irrigation evaluations, retrofitting or replacing irrigation system equipment, new pool filters and covers, aeration, compost, and mulch.

### ***3.3.4 Landscape Irrigation Standards***

In June 2008, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted new water efficiency rules for the design, installation, and maintenance of landscape irrigation systems, effective January 1, 2009. Compliance with the rules is required of municipalities with populations of 20,000 or more and allows water districts to adopt and enforce them.

WTCPUA will evaluate adopting and enforcing supplemental standards for the design, installation, and maintenance of landscape irrigation systems in its retail utility service area.

### ***3.3.5 Conservation Landscape Best Management Practices***

WTCPUA reviews all applications for irrigation meters to ensure meters are sized correctly, landscape irrigation complies with WTCPUA's two-day-a-week watering restrictions, and best management practices (BMP) are followed.

### ***3.3.6 Water Loss***

WTCPUA has experienced rapid growth. In such systems, water loss typically occurs from construction flushing and theft. In addition, additional flushing is needed to maintain water quality in dead-end lines. WTCPUA evaluates the water losses for our systems and determines the best corrective actions to minimize those losses, which can include monthly audits and can include monthly audits or periodic inspections along distribution lines.

## **3.4 Adoption of Plan**

Formal adoption of the Water Conservation Plan will be by a resolution from the West Travis County Public Utility Agency Board of Directors.



## **4.0 ADDITIONAL WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

### **4.1 Water Monitoring and Records Management**

WTCPUA maintains records of water distribution and sales through a central customer consumption tracking and billing system. The billing system provides a way to compile, present, and view water-use and billing information.

### **4.2 Water Metering**

WTCPUA Water Contract Rules impose requirements on wholesale customers, which require all water meters to be accurate within plus or minus 5 percent of the indicated flow over the possible flow range. The meters are read on a monthly basis, and must be calibrated annually.

WTCPUA follows metering, leak detection, and repair requirements as stated in the LCRA *Water Conservation Plan Rules*. Water is metered in and out of the WTCPUA water treatment plant.

The water use of all retail customers is also metered. A regularly scheduled maintenance program of meter repair and replacement is performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. In 2019 the WTCPUA completed replacement of all aging retail customer meters with smart meters—approximately 3,000 meters in total. Zero consumption accounts are checked to see if water is actually being used or not recorded.

### **4.3 Wholesale Water Conservation Plans**

Each wholesale treated water customers must develop a drought contingency and a water conservation plan in accordance with LCRA *Water Contract Rules*. The plans must include a governing board resolution, ordinance, or other official document noting that the plan has been formally adopted by the utility. Wholesale treated water customers must include in their wholesale water supply contracts the requirement that each successive wholesale customer develop and implement a water conservation and drought contingency plan.

WTCPUA provides technical assistance with the development and review of wholesale treated water customers' water conservation plans and programs. LCRA assists with the development of rules and regulations that encourage water conservation, such as adding water conservation components into landscape ordinances. Conservation education materials are available to wholesale customers for either no charge, or at a reduced rate.

WTCPUA also requires drought contingency plans, which meet or exceed LCRA rules for drought contingency plans, for each of its wholesale treated water customers.

## **4.4 Education and Outreach**

### ***4.4.1 Water Conservation Public Awareness Program***

WTCPUA posts its Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan, Water Conservation Tips and the LCRA WaterSmart Rebates program on its web site to promote and ensure customer awareness of water conservation. WTCPUA also promotes water conservation through direct customer communications through Constant Contact, billing insert notifications, and website alerts for changes in Drought Contingency Plan Stages.

### ***4.4.3 WaterSmart Landscaping for Central Texas***

WTCPUA promotes the LCRA WaterSmart landscape guidelines to help homeowners and homebuilders create well-designed, water-efficient landscapes.

### ***4.4.4 Highland Lakes Firm Water Customer Cooperative (HLFWCC).***

WTCPUA is a member of HLFWCC which is comprised of municipal utilities that have firm water wholesale contracts with LCRA. HLFWCC meets quarterly to discuss water utility management, conservation best management practices, and LCRA water plans. Feedback is provided through periodic meetings with LCRA.

### ***4.4.5 Support and Participation in Other Organizations***

WTCPUA supports and participates in organizations that promote water conservation, including the Texas Water Conservation Association, and the Hill Country Alliance.

## 5.0 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

### 5.1 Permanent Water Use Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to all WTCPUA water utility systems on a year-round basis, regardless of water supply or water treatment plant production conditions.

According to the restrictions, a water user must not:

- (1) Fail to repair a controllable leak, including:
  - a. a broken sprinkler head,
  - b. a leaking valve,
  - c. leaking or broken pipes, or
  - d. a leaking faucet.
- (2) Operate an irrigation system:
  - a. with a broken head,
  - b. with a head that is out of adjustment and the arc of the spray head is over a street or parking area, or
  - c. with a head that is fogging or misting because of excessive water pressure.
  - d. Except between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- (3) During irrigation, allow water:
  - a. to run off a property and form a stream of water in a street for a distance of 50 feet or greater, or
  - b. to pool in a street or parking lot to a depth greater than one-quarter of an inch.
- (4) Irrigate outdoors using an in-ground irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler more than twice per week or outside of scheduled days and times as indicated below:

#### **Residential**

Addresses ending:

0,1,2,3 Monday and Thursday

4,5,6 Tuesday and Friday

7,8,9 Wednesday and Saturday

**Commercial** (including large landscapes such as HOA common areas)

Tuesday and Friday

Watering Hours:

6 a.m. to 10 a.m and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### 5.2 Drought Response Stages – Retail Customers

The WTCPUA General Manager shall monitor water supply and demand conditions and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation and termination of each stage of the Drought Contingency Plan. Water supply conditions will be determined by the availability of the source of supply for individual service areas, system capacity, and weather conditions. Demand will be measured by the peak daily demands on each

system. Notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by a variety of methods, possibly including local media, direct mail to each customer, the WTCPUA web site, and signs posted at other public places.

Any or all of the measures described in this Plan may be implemented on an area basis that is appropriate to the triggering criteria.

All demand management measures under the four stages of this DCP are mandatory and subject to enforcement.

### **5.2.1 Stage 1 – Mild Water Shortage**

**Requirements for initiation** — Affected customers shall be required to comply with the Stage 1 Drought Response Measures of this Plan when the following triggering criteria are met:

- a. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds
  - i. 80 percent of the total design capacity of the WTCPUA water treatment plant for three consecutive days; or
  - ii. 90 percent of the total design capacity of the WTCPUA water treatment plant for a single day;
- b. source water contamination results in compromised capacity of the treatment and delivery systems;
- c. mechanical or electrical failure of a system component results in compromised treatment and/or delivery capacity;
- d. the combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan drops below 1.1 million acre-feet; or
- e. the LCRA initiates Stage 1 of its DCP.

**Requirements for termination** — Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

- a. When water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event are predicted to cease for an extended period;
- b. the source water contamination event or mechanical or electrical failure of a system component is resolved;
- c. The combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan increases above 1.2 million acre-feet; or
- d. LCRA announces that curtailment of water supplies to firm water customers is no longer required under the drought contingency measures of the LCRA DCP.

#### **Supply Management Measures:**

The WTCPUA will:

- a. Apply water-use restrictions prescribed for Stage 1 of the Plan to WTCPUA facilities for which Stage 1 has been declared.

- b. Discontinue water main and line flushing unless necessary for public health reasons; and
- c. Keep customers informed about issues regarding current and projected water supply and demand conditions.

**Demand Management Measures:**

Water Supply Reduction Target: Achieve a 10% reduction in water use.

Under threat of penalty as described in Section 5.4, the following water-use restrictions shall apply to all retail water customers:

Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:

**Residential**

Addresses ending:

- 0,1,2,3 Monday and Thursday
- 4,5,6 Tuesday and Friday
- 7,8,9 Wednesday and Saturday

**Commercial** (including large landscapes such as HOA common areas)  
Tuesday and Friday

Watering Hours:

6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. This prohibition does not apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:

- i. Hand-held hose; or
  - ii. Faucet-filled bucket or water can of five gallons or less.
- b. New landscapes may be installed, and re-vegetation seeding performed under these specific criteria:
    - i. The mandatory twice weekly watering schedule is adhered to.
    - ii. If a deviation from the twice weekly schedule is required, that a completed variance form for new landscapes has been submitted to WTCPUA and has been approved prior to the installation of the landscape, or re-vegetation seed application; and
    - iii. Irrigation of the new landscape, or application follows the schedule identified in the new landscape variance:
      - 1. once a day for the first 10 days after installation;
      - 2. once every other day from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for days 11 through 20 after installation

3. once every third day 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for day 21 through 30 after installation.
- iv. Alternatives to re-vegetation may be available in times of low water supply. Specific information regarding such alternatives is available in the LCRA Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance Technical Manual (sec. 3.2.8).
- v. Variances for new landscapes and re-vegetation will be issued for the shortest period necessary to reasonably assure the landscapes survival. A variance is not an exemption from compliance with the permanent water use restrictions under *Permanent Water Restrictions* of this plan other than schedule. Variances will not be granted for seasonal “color bed” or temporary grass installation (over seeding).

#### Vehicle Washing:

Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, such as a motorbike, boat, trailer, or airplane is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Such activity, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle. A vehicle may be washed any time at a commercial car wash facility or commercial service station. Further, this activity is exempt from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are served by washing the vehicle, such as a truck used to collect garbage or used to transport food and perishables.

#### Events:

Events involving the use of water such as: car washes, festivals, parties, water slides, and other activities involving the use of water are permitted, if the water being used drains to a re-circulating device, or is used for a beneficial purpose such as watering landscaping to prevent water waste.

#### Restaurants:

All restaurants are encouraged to serve water to their patrons only upon request.

#### Recreational Areas (Includes Parks and Athletic Fields):

The areas can only be used for designated or scheduled events or activities. Unnecessary foot traffic must be discouraged. Watering must follow irrigation of landscaped areas schedule. A variance can be applied for if necessary.

### Water Waste:

The following uses of water are prohibited at all times during periods in which restrictions have gone into effect unless a variance has been approved:

- a. Washing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, street, tennis courts, and other impervious outdoor surfaces; except for immediate health and safety;
- b. Washing buildings, houses or structures with a pressure washer or garden hose is prohibited for aesthetic purposes but permitted for surface preparation of maintenance work to be performed;
- c. Controlling dust, unless there is a demonstrated need to do so for reasons of public health and safety, or as part of a construction plan approved by a governmental entity;
- d. Flushing gutters or allowing a substantial amount of water to run off a property and accumulate in a gutter, street, or parking lot to a depth greater than one-fourth of an inch.

### ***5.2.2 Stage 2 – Moderate Water Shortage***

**Requirements for initiation** – Customers shall be required to comply with Stage 2 Drought Response Measures of this Plan when moderate water shortage conditions exist. WTCPUA will recognize that a moderate water shortage condition exists when any of the following criteria is met:

- a. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds:
  - i. 85 percent of the total design capacity of the WTCPUA water treatment plant for three consecutive days;
  - ii. 95 percent of the total design capacity of the WTCPUA water treatment plant for a single day; or
  - iii. the total design capacity of the WTCPUA raw water transmission main for three consecutive days;
- b. source water contamination results in compromised capacity of the treatment and delivery systems;
- c. mechanical or electrical failure of a system component results in compromised treatment and/or delivery capacity;
- d. target reduction for the Stage 1 demand management measures is not achieved;
- e. the combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan drops below 900,000 acre-feet; or

- f. the LCRA initiates Stage 2 of its DCP.

**Requirements for termination** — Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

- b. The WTCPUA water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event is predicted to cease for an extended period;
- c. the source water contamination event or mechanical or electrical failure of a system component is resolved;
- d. the combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan increases above 1.1 million acre-feet; or
- e. LCRA announces that curtailment of water supplies to firm water customers is no longer required under drought contingency measures of the LCRA DCP.

Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

**Supply Management Measures:**

In addition to measures implemented in the preceding stages of the Plan, affected WTCPUA water utility systems will implement additional water control options to limit water to only critical use for protection of health and safety and maintenance of treatment quality.

**Demand Management Measures:**

Water Supply Reduction Target: Achieve a minimum 20% reduction in water use.

Under threat of penalty as described in Section 5.4, all retail customers are required to further reduce non-essential water uses as follows. All requirements of Stage 1 shall remain in effect during Stage 2, with the following modifications and additions:

Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:

Outdoor watering will be restricted to the following once-weekly schedule:

**Residential**

Addresses ending:

- |      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 1, 3 | Monday    |
| 2, 4 | Tuesday   |
| 5, 7 | Wednesday |
| 6, 8 | Thursday  |
| 9, 0 | Friday    |

**Commercial** (including large landscapes such as HOA common areas)  
Saturday



**Watering Hours:**

6 a.m. to 10 a.m and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. This prohibition does not apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:

- i. Hand-held hose; or
- ii. Faucet-filled bucket or water can of five gallons or less.

New landscapes may only be installed if they do not require a variance to the mandatory watering schedule. No variances will be approved.

**Vehicle Washing:**

Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited. A vehicle can be washed at any time at a commercial car wash facility or commercial service station. Further, this activity is exempt from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are served by washing the vehicle, such as a truck used to collect garbage or used to transport food and perishables.

**Pools:**

- a. Filling of all new and existing swimming pools, hot tubs, wading pools, is prohibited, unless application for variance is approved on a case by case basis. Replenishing to maintenance level is permitted. Draining is permitted only onto pervious surfaces or onto a surface where water will be transmitted directly to a pervious surface, and only if:
  - i. Draining excess water from pool due to rain in order to lower water to maintenance level;
  - ii. Repairing, maintaining or replacing pool components that have become hazardous; or
  - iii. Repair of a pool leak.
- b. Refilling of public/community swimming pools permitted only if pool has been drained for repairs, maintenance, or replacement as outlined in items above.

**Outside Water Features:**

Operation of outside water features, such as, but not limited to, fountains or outdoor misting systems, is prohibited, except where such features are designed and consistently maintained to sustain aquatic life or maintain water quality. WTCPUA may require proof of such design and consistent maintenance.

**Ponds:**

Ponds used for aesthetic, amenity, and/or storm water purposes may maintain water levels only necessary to preserve the integrity of the liner and operating system. WTCPUA may require proof of specific design documentation regarding a pond and the intended purpose.

**Events:**

Events involving the use of water such as: car washes, festivals; parties; water slides; and other activities involving the use of water are prohibited.

**Recreational areas (includes municipal parks and common areas):**

Irrigation of recreational areas with potable water must follow the seven-hour weekly irrigation schedule, and watering of recreational areas should be prioritized by frequency of use. Unnecessary foot traffic should be discouraged. Watering using an auxiliary source such as recycled water is exempt from these restrictions.

**Athletic Fields:**

Watering should follow a no more than once-per-week schedule per irrigated area unless the athletic fields are actively 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.

- a. All ornamental landscape areas around facilities with athletic fields shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions.
- b. A variance must be filed with the WTCPUA for watering outside of the once per week irrigation schedule.

**5.2.3 Stage 3 – Severe Water Shortage**

**Requirements for initiation** – Customers shall be required to comply with Stage 3 Drought Response Measures of this Plan when severe water shortage conditions exist. WTCPUA will recognize that a severe water shortage condition exists when either of the following criteria is met:

- a. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds:
  - i. 90 percent of the total design capacity of the WTCPUA water treatment plant for three consecutive days; or
  - ii. 100% of the total design capacity of the WTCPUA water treatment plant for a single day;
- b. source water contamination results in compromised capacity of the

- treatment and delivery systems;
- c. mechanical or electrical failure of a system component results in compromised treatment and/or delivery capacity;
- d. target reduction for the Stage 2 demand management measures is not achieved;
- e. the combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan drops below 750,000 acre-feet; or
- f. the LCRA initiates Stage 3 of its DCP.

**Requirements for termination** — Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

- a. The WTCPUA water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event is predicted to cease for an extended period;
- b. The combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan increases above 825,000 acre-feet
- c. LCRA announces that curtailment of water supplies to firm water customers is no longer required under drought contingency measures of the LCRA DCP.

Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

**Supply Management Measures:**

In addition to measures implemented in the preceding stages of the plan, affected WTCPUA water utility systems will implement additional water control options to limit water to only critical use for protection of health and safety and maintenance of treatment quality.

**Demand Management Measures:**

Water Supply Reduction Target: Achieve a minimum 30% reduction in water use.

Under threat of penalty for violation as described in Section 5.4, customers are required to eliminate non-essential water uses during an emergency. This includes, but is not limited to the following measures:

**Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:**

Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or in-ground irrigation systems shall be limited to four hours a day between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., once weekly according to the Stage 2 designated days. No irrigation with in-ground irrigation systems is allowed from November through February.

Outdoor watering hours for hand watering will be limited to between 6 a.m.

and 10 a.m. on the same designated days that apply to watering with hose-end sprinklers or irrigation systems. The allowed methods of hand watering landscaped areas are:

- i. Hand-held hose;
- ii. Faucet-filled bucket or water can of five gallons or less;
- iii. Soaker hose; or
- iv. Tree gator watering bags

New landscapes may only be installed if they do not require a variance to the mandatory watering schedule. No variances will be approved.

#### Fire Hydrants:

Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare. Use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special conditions and will require a meter; a variance application must be submitted and approved before a hydrant meter will be provided.

#### Recreational areas (includes municipal parks and common areas):

Irrigation of recreational areas with potable water must follow the four-hour weekly irrigation schedule, and watering of recreational areas should be prioritized by frequency of use. Unnecessary foot traffic should be discouraged. Watering using an auxiliary source such as recycled water is exempt from these restrictions.

#### Athletic fields:

A variance including a map of active play areas that must be irrigated with automatic sprinkler systems for sports practice and competition must be filed with the WTCPUA if irrigation falls outside of the normal watering schedule. The irrigation must be necessary to protect the health and safety of the players, staff, and officials present for athletic events.

- a. All ornamental landscape areas around facilities with athletic fields shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions.
- b. All athletic fields that are not actively used for sports practice and competition shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions.

#### Outside Water Features:

- a. Operation of ornamental fountains is prohibited.
- b. Operation of outside water features, is only allowed when such features are used for aeration necessary to sustain aquatic life or maintain water

quality. (This provision includes fountains associated with aesthetic ponds and swimming pools.)

#### **5.2.4 Stage 4 – Emergency Water Conditions**

The WTCPUA General Manager or designee will notify affected retail customers, wholesale customers, and the media of the initiation and termination of Stage 4. Examples of a water emergency include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Major water line breaks, loss of distribution pressure, or pump system failures that cause substantial loss in its ability to provide water service;
- b. Contamination of the water supply source;
- c. Any other emergency water supply or demand conditions that the WTCPUA General Manager or designee, determines to constitute a water supply emergency; or
- d. The LCRA Board declares a Drought Worse than the Drought of Record or other water supply emergency and orders the mandatory curtailment of firm water supplies.

Upon declaration of Stage 4—Emergency Water Conditions, water use restrictions outlined in Stage 4 Emergency Response Measures shall immediately apply and be in effect until lifted by WTCPUA.

#### **Emergency Measures**

Water Supply Reduction Target: As determined by the WTCPUA Board of Directors.

Under threat of penalty for violation as described in Section 5.4, customers are required to eliminate non-essential water uses during an emergency. This includes, but is not limited to the following measures:

- a. Irrigation of any ornamental landscaped areas is prohibited. The use of hose-end sprinklers and automatic irrigation systems, including drip irrigation, are prohibited except as provided under item b below.
- b. Irrigation of foundations, trees and vegetable gardens is allowed with hand-held hoses with a working on/off nozzle, bucket, or soaker hoses for 4 hours between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. one day per week on designated days only.
- c. Watering of athletic fields is allowed only with a variance filed with WTCPUA and must follow a no more than once-per-week schedule for no more than 4 hours per irrigated area. The irrigated athletic fields must be actively in use for organized sports practice, competition or exhibition

events to protect the health and safety of the players, staff or officials present for the athletic event.

- d. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare only.
- e. No applications for new, additional, expanded, or larger water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be allowed or approved.
- f. Additional measures may be added as needed.

### **5.3 Drought Response Stages – Wholesale Customers**

All WTCPUA wholesale treated water customers are required to develop and formally adopt drought contingency plans for their own systems in accordance with Title 30 TAC §§288.20 and §288.22. The measures of this Plan must be at least as stringent as the drought response measures required by WTCPUA for its retail customers. Wholesale treated water customers must include in their wholesale water supply contracts, including renewals and extensions, the requirement that each successive wholesale customer develop and formally adopt a drought contingency plan. In case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water shall be distributed in accordance with Texas Water Code §11.039.

#### **Stage 1 –Mild Water Shortage – Mandatory Measures**

WTCPUA will keep wholesale treated water customers informed about demand and current and projected water supply conditions. WTCPUA will initiate discussions with wholesale treated water customers about potential curtailment and the implementation of mandatory measures to reduce water usage by 10%.

#### **Stage 2 –Moderate Water Shortage – Additional Mandatory Measures**

WTCPUA will contact its wholesale treated water customers to initiate additional mandatory measures to control water demand and to ensure capacity for emergency response requirements. Additional mandatory measures will include the curtailment of water use by a minimum of 20% in accordance with the wholesale treated water customer's own drought contingency plan.

#### **Stage 3 –Severe Water Shortage – Additional Mandatory Measures**

WTCPUA will contact its wholesale treated water customers to initiate additional mandatory measures to control water demand and to ensure capacity for emergency response requirements. Additional mandatory measures will include the curtailment of water use by a minimum of 30% in accordance with the wholesale treated water

customer's own drought contingency plan.

#### **Stage 4 – Emergency Measures**

Water Supply Reduction Target: As determined by the WTCPUA Board of Directors

WTCPUA will contact its wholesale treated water customers to initiate additional mandatory measures to control water demand and to ensure capacity for emergency response requirements. Additional mandatory measures will include the curtailment of non-essential water uses in accordance with the wholesale treated water customer's own drought contingency plan.

In addition, if the Stage 4 triggering criteria is based on a water supply shortage, WTCPUA will initiate the curtailment of water provided to wholesale treated water customers on a *pro rata* basis. The wholesale treated water customer's monthly allocation of water shall be based on a percentage of the customer's baseline water use. The percentage will be determined by the WTCPUA General Manager and may be adjusted as conditions warrant.

### **5.4 Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan Implementation**

#### **5.4.1 Public Notification**

WTCPUA will periodically provide information about the drought contingency components of this plan, including (1) the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated, and (2) the drought response measures to be implemented at each stage. This information will be provided by various means depending on the audience, including articles in the local media and special materials mailed to customers and available on the WTCPUA web site.

#### **5.4.2 Enforcement for Retail Customers**

The following enforcement provisions shall apply to all WTCPUA retail water customers:

- a. No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from a WTCPUA water utility system for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, ornamental, 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 drought response stage in effect at the time.
- b. Except as otherwise provided in this Section 5.4.2, any person who violates this Plan shall be subject to the following surcharges and conditions of service:
  - i. Following the first documented violation, the violator shall be given a notice specifying the type of violation and the date and time it was observed.

- ii. Following the second documented violation, the violator shall be sent by certified mail a notice of violation and shall be assessed a surcharge of \$500;
  - iii. Following the third documented violation, the violator shall be sent by certified mail a notice of violation and shall be assessed a surcharge of \$1,000;
  - iv. Following the fourth documented violation, the WTCPUA Board of Directors or its designee shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a reconnection charge, hereby established at \$500, and any other costs incurred by a WTCPUA water utility system in discontinuing service, and any outstanding charges including late payment fees or penalties. In addition, suitable assurance in the amount of a deposit of \$500 must be given to the WTCPUA Board of Directors or its designee, that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect. The WTCPUA Board of Directors or its designee may apply the deposit to any surcharges or penalties subsequently assessed under this Plan against a customer. Any remaining amount of such deposit, if any, shall be returned to the customer at the time of the customer's voluntary disconnection from the utility system.
- c. Compliance with this Plan also may be sought through injunctive relief in district court. Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate violation. Any person, including one classified as a water customer of the WTCPUA, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates, shall be presumed to be the violator. Any such person, however, shall have the right to show that he or she did not commit the violation. Parents shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children, but any such parent may be excused if he proves that he had previously directed the child not to use the water in violation of this Plan and that there is no reasonable expectation that parent could have known about the violation. Table 5-1 shows the progressive steps of the drought response enforcement process for retail customers.



**Table 5-1: Drought Response Retail Enforcement Process**

Documented Violation	Response
First	Notice of violation issued Customer is notified of actions to be taken if violations continue
Second	Penalty – \$500
Third	Penalty – \$1,000
Fourth and on	Service Disconnection \$500 reconnection fee and \$500 deposit required

**5.4.3 Enforcement for Wholesale Customers**

Wholesale treated water customers shall provide WTCPUA with an order, ordinance, or resolution to demonstrate adequate enforcement provisions for the wholesale customer’s own conservation and drought contingency plan.

In addition, wholesale treated water customers who fail to comply with the conservation and drought contingency measures in the Plan may be subject to civil penalties or any other remedies available to WTCPUA by law or under the terms of the raw water or wholesale water contracts and subject to the penalties in Table 5-2 below:

**Table 5-2: Wholesale Customer Drought Response Violation Penalties**

Documented Violation	Response
First	Written notice of violation
Second	Penalty fee up to \$2,000
Third and on	Penalty fee up to \$10,000

**5.4.4 Variances**

- a. The WTCPUA Board of Directors or it’s designee may grant variances:
  - i. From specific applications of the outdoor water schedule, providing that the variances do not increase the time allowed for watering but rather alter the schedule for watering; and,
  - ii. Allowing the use of alternative water sources that do not increase demand on potable water sources for outdoor use. Variance requests may be submitted to Water Customer Services and need not meet the requirements of subsection (b) below.
  
- b. WTCPUA Board of Directors or its designee may grant in writing temporary variances for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to do so would cause an emergency adversely affecting the public health, sanitation, or fire protection, and if one or more of the following conditions are met:
  - i. Compliance with this Plan cannot be accomplished during the duration of the time the Plan is in effect, or
  - ii. Alternative methods can be implemented that will achieve the

same level of reduction in water use.

- c. Persons requesting a variance from the provisions of this Plan shall file a petition for variance with WTCPUA Customer Service any time the Plan or a particular drought response stage is in effect. The WTCPUA General Manager, or designee, will review petitions for variances. The petitions shall include the following:
  - i. Name and address of the petitioner;
  - ii. Purpose of water use;
  - iii. Specific provision of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief;
  - iv. Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm the petitioner or others will sustain if petitioner complies with this Plan;
  - v. Description of the relief requested;
  - vi. Period of time for which the variance is sought;
  - vii. 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; and
  - viii. Other pertinent information.
- d. Variances shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the WTCPUA Board of Directors or it's designee:
  - i. Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
  - ii. Variances granted shall expire when the Plan, or its requirements, is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise excuse any violation occurring before the variance was issued.

#### ***5.4.5 Plan Updates***

The Plan will be reviewed consistent with LCRA and TCEQ rules and updated based on developments in the WTCPUA water service area.

#### ***5.4.6 Drought Surcharge***

In order to offset the impact of lost revenues resulting from extended periods of implementing water conservation/drought contingency measures and/or due to implementation of LCRA raw water supply curtailments, the Board of Directors may assess a Drought Surcharge as authorized in the WTCPUA's Tariff, as may be amended from time to time.

**5.4.7 Notification to LCRA and TCEQ**

The WTCPUA shall notify the LCRA General Manager and the TCEQ Executive Director in writing within five (5) business days of the implementation of any mandatory provisions of this Drought Contingency Plan.

## Appendix A – Adherence to TCEQ Chapter 288 Rules

As a municipal water supplier, the minimum requirements in the Texas Administrative Code for water conservation plans for municipal uses by public water suppliers are covered in this Plan as follows:

- 288.2 (a)(1)(A) – Utility Profile – Section 2.1, 3.1
- 288.2 (a)(1)(C) – Specific, Quantified Five- and Ten-Year Goals – Section 2.2, 3.2
- 288.2 (a)(1)(D) – Measure and Account Water Diverted – Section 4.1, 4.2
- 288.2 (a)(1)(E) – Universal Metering – Section 4.2
- 288.2 (a)(1)(F) – Measures to Determine and Control Unaccounted-for Uses of Water – Section 4.2
- 288.2 (a)(1)(G) – Continuing Public Education and Outreach – Section 4.4
- 288.2 (a)(1)(H) – Rate Structure that is not Promotional – Section 2.3.2, 3.3.2
- 288.2 (a)(1)(I) – Reservoir Systems Operation Plan – Water Management Plan.
- 288.2 (a)(1)(J) – Means of Implementation and Enforcement – Section 1.1, 1.6
- 288.2 (a)(1)(K) – Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group(s) – Section 1.4
- 288.2 (a)(2)(A) – Program for Leak Detection, Repair and Water Loss Accounting – Section 3.3.1
- 288.2 (a)(2)(B) – Record Management System with Customer Classification – Section 4.1
- 288.2 (a)(2)(C) – Wholesale Customer Conservation Plan Requirement – Section 4.3
- 288.2 (a)(3) – Additional Conservation Strategies – Section 2.3, 4.4

As a municipal water supplier, the minimum requirements in the Texas Administrative Code for drought contingency plans for municipal uses by public water suppliers are covered in this Plan as follows:

- 288.20 (a)(1)(A) – Public Input – Section 1.2
- 288.20 (a)(1)(B) – Continuing Public Education – Section 4.4
- 288.20 (a)(1)(C) – Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group(s) – Section 1.4
- 288.20 (a)(1)(D) – Monitoring and Criteria for the Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages – Section 5.2
- 288.20 (a)(1)(E) – Emergency Response Stages – Section 5.3
- 288.20 (a)(1)(F) – Water Use Reduction Targets – Section 5.3
- 288.20 (a)(1)(G) – Water Supply or Water Demand Management Measures – Section 5.3
- 288.20 (a)(1)(H) – Procedures for the Initiation or Termination of Drought Stages and Public Notification – Section 5.2, 5.3, 5.4.1
- 288.20 (a)(1)(I) – Variances Procedures – Section 5.4.4
- 288.20 (a)(1)(J) – Enforcement of Mandatory Water Use Restrictions – Section 5.4.2, 5.4.3