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# DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS

## EVADALE WATER SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Introduction and Objectives

Water supply has always been a key issue in the development of Texas. Recognizing the need of efficient use of existing water supplies, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has developed guidelines and requirements governing the development of drought contingency plans for public water suppliers.

The (TCEQ) rules governing development of drought contingency plans for public water suppliers are contained in Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 288, Subchapter B, Rule 288.20 of the Texas Administrative Code, which is included as Appendix B. For the purpose of the rules, a drought contingency plan is defined as:

“A strategy or combination of strategies for temporary supply and demand management responses to temporary and potentially recurring water supply shortages and other water supply emergencies. A drought contingency plan may be a separate document identified as such or may be contained with another water management document(s).”

The Evadale Water System adopted this drought contingency plan pursuant to TCEQ guidelines and requirements. April 26, 2005

The purpose of this drought contingency plan is as follows:

- To conserve the available water supply in times of drought and emergency
- To maintain supplies for domestic water use, sanitation, and *fire protection (not currently used)*
- To protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety
- To minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortages
- To minimize the adverse impacts of emergency water supply conditions.

#### 1.1 State Requirements for Contingency Plans

This drought contingency plan is consistent with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) guidelines and requirements of drought contingency plan by public drinking water suppliers contained in Title 20, Part 1, Chapter 288, Subchapter B, Rule 288.20 of the Texas Administrative Code.

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<sup>1</sup> For the rest of this document Evadale Water System will be abbreviated as (EWS).

## **1.2 Provision to inform the Public and Opportunity for Public Input**

The (EWS) will provide opportunity for public input in the development of this drought contingency plan by the following means:

- Making a draft available at the offices located in the community of Evadale
- Providing a draft of the plan to anyone requesting a copy
- Notification of the drought plan existence via public posting of documents

## **1.3 Provisions for Continuing Public Education and Information**

The (EWS) will inform and educate the public about its drought contingency plan by the following means:

- Making a plan available to the public at the office located in the community of Evadale.
- Notification of customers via mail and personal contact of (EWS) owner in community.

At any time that the drought contingency plan is activated or the drought stage changes, the EWS will notify the local media of the issues, the drought response stage, and the specific actions required of the public. Billing inserts or mail outs will also be used as appropriate.

## **1.4 Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

### **1.4.1 Initiation of Drought Response Stages**

The owner/operator or his/her official designee may order the implementation of a drought response stage or water emergency when one or more of the trigger conditions for that stage is met. The following actions will be taken when a drought stage is initiated.

- The public will be notified through the local media
- If any mandatory provisions of the drought contingency plan are activated the EWS will notify the Executive Director of the TCEQ within five business days.

For other trigger conditions, the owner/operator or his/her designees may decide not to order the implementation of a drought response stage or water emergency even though one or more of the trigger criteria for the stage are met. Factors that could influence such a decision include, but are not limited to, the time of the year, weather conditions, the anticipation of replenished water supplies, or the anticipation that additional facilities will become available to meet needs.

### **1.4.2 Termination of Drought Response Stages**

The owner/operator or his/her designee may order the termination of a drought response stage or water emergency when the conditions for termination are met at his/her discretion. The following actions will be taken when a drought stage is terminated.

- The public will be notified through local media
- When any mandatory provisions of the drought contingency plan that have activated are terminated, the EWS will notify the Executive Director of the TCEQ within five business days.

The owner/operator may decide not to order the termination of a drought response stage or water emergency even though conditions for termination of the stage are met. Factors that could influence such a decision include, but are not limited to, the time of the year, weather conditions, or the anticipation of potential changed conditions that warrant the continuation of the drought stage.

## **1.5 Drought and Emergency Response Stages**

### **1.5.1 Stage 1, Mild**

#### **1.5.1.1 Triggering and Termination Condition for Stage 1, Mild**

- Demand exceeds 90% of the amount that can be delivered to customers for seven consecutive days
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system approaches delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate
- Supply source becomes contaminated
- Water supply system unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components

Stage 1 can be terminated when the circumstance that caused the initiation of Stage 1 no longer prevail.

#### **1.5.1.2 Goal for Use Reductions and Actions Available Under Stage 1, Mild**

The goal for water use reduction under Stage 1, Mild is a 0 percent reduction of the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures. The purpose of actions under Stage 1, Mild is to raise public awareness of potential drought problems. The owner/operator or his/her designee can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below as deemed necessary:

- Request voluntary reductions in water use by the public
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use
- Review the problems that caused the initiation of Stage 1
- Notify major water users and work with them to achieve voluntary water use reductions
- Intensify effort on leak detection and repair
- Ask the public to follow voluntary landscape water schedules.

## **1.5.2 Stage 2, Moderate**

### **1.5.2.1 Triggering and Termination Conditions for Stage 2, Moderate**

- Demand exceeds 95 % of the amount that can be delivered to customers for three consecutive days
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system equals delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate
- Supply source becomes contaminated
- Water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components
- Well level reaches 100ft. mean sea level; Overnight recovery reaches 60 ft.

Stage 2 can terminate when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 2 no longer prevail. Stage 1 becomes operative on termination of Stage 2.

### **1.5.2.2 Goal for Use Reduction and Actions Available Under Stage 2, Moderate**

The goal for water use reduction under stage 2, Moderate is a 2 percent reduction of the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures. The owner/operator or his/her designees can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary:

- Continue or initiate any action available under Stage 1
- Initiate studies to evaluate alternative if conditions worsens
- Accelerate public education on ways to reduce water use

## **1.5.3 Stage 3, Severe**

### **1.5.3.1 Triggering and Termination Conditions for Stage 3, Severe**

- Demand exceeds 98% of the amount that can be delivered to customers for three consecutive days

- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system exceeds delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate
- Supply source becomes contaminated
- Water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components
- Well level reaches 120 ft. mean sea level, 60 ft. Overnight Recovery rate; Total daily demand as percent of pumping capacity is 50 %; Total daily demand as % of storage capacity is 60%; Pumps hours per day 10 hrs.

Stage 3 can terminate when the circumstance that caused the initiation of Stage 3 no longer prevail. Stage 2 become operative on termination of Stage 3.

#### **1.5.3.2 Goal for Use Reduction and Actions Available Under Stage 3, Severe**

The goal for water use reduction under Stage 3, Severe, is a reduction of 5 percent of the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures. If the circumstances warrant, the owner/operator or his designee can set a goal for greater water use reduction.

The owner/operator or his/her designees can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below as deemed necessary. Measures described as “requires notification to TCEQ” impose mandatory requirements on retail customers. The EWS will notify the TCEQ within five business days if these measures are implemented.

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stage 2 and 2
- Implement viable alternative water supply strategies
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ-Initiate Mandatory water use Restrictions as follows:**
  - Prohibit hosing of paved areas, buildings, or windows
  - Prohibit operation of ornamental fountains
  - Prohibit washing or rinsing of vehicles by hose
  - Prohibit using water in such a manner as to allow runoff or other waste
  - Limit landscape watering at each service address to once very 5 days
  - Prohibit draining and filling existing swimming pools and filling new pools
  - Prohibit installation of new landscaping

#### **1.5.4 Stage 4, Emergency**

##### **1.5.4.1 Triggering and Termination Conditions for Stage 4-Emergency**

Demand exceeds the amount that can be delivered to customers

Water demand for all or part of the delivery system seriously exceed delivery capacity because the delivery capacity is inadequate

Supply source becomes contaminated

Water supply system unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water components

Stage 4 can terminate when the circumstances that cause the initiation of Stage 4 no longer prevail. Stage 3 becomes operative on termination of Stage 4.

##### **1.5.4.2 Goal for Use Reduction and Actions Available Under Stage 4, Emergency**

The goal for water use reduction under Stage 4, Emergency, is a reduction of 10 percent of the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures. If circumstances warrant, the owner/operator or his/her designee can set a goal for greater water use reduction.

The owner/operator or his/her designee can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary. Measures described as "requires notification of TCEQ" impose mandatory requirements on retail and wholesale customers. The EWS will notify TCEQ within five business days if these measures are implemented.

Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1, 2, or 3

Implement viable alternative water strategies

##### **Requires Notification to TCEQ**

- prohibit washing of vehicles except as necessary for health, sanitation or safety reasons, including car washes
- prohibit commercial and residential landscaping watering  
prohibit any filling of private pools. Private pools may refill to replace water losses due to normal use
- require commercial users to reduce water usage by a percentage established by the owner operator

### **1.6 Procedure for Granting Variances**

The owner/operator or his/her designee may grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this drought contingency plan in one or more of the following conditions is met:

Failure to grant such variances would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting health sanitation or fire safety of the public or the person requesting the variance  
Compliance with the plan cannot be accomplished due to technical or other limitation  
Alternative methods that achieve the same level of reduction in water use can be implemented

The variances will be granted or denied upon the discretion of the owner/operator or his/her designee. The request for variances must be presented in person at the office of the EWS to the owner/operator or his/her designee.

A customer who is refused an exemption or variance may appeal such action of the utility in writing to the TCEQ. The utility will treat all customers equally concerning exemptions and variances and shall not discriminate in granting exemptions or variances.

### **1.7 Procedure for Enforcement of Mandatory Restrictions**

Mandatory water use restrictions may be imposed in Stage 3 and Stage 4 drought stages. These mandatory water use restrictions will be enforced by warnings and penalties:

**First Violation:** Customer will be given a warning that they have violated the mandatory water use restriction.

**Second Violation:** Customer will be given a warning of another violation and notified that further violations could result in the cut off of water service or the installation of a flow restricting device, to the customer. The utility may charge the customer for the actual cost of installing and removing the flow restricting device not to exceed 50. dollars. In the event that water service is cut off, the normal connect fee for the utility will apply for restoration of services.

### **1.8 Review and Update of Drought Contingency Plan**

As required by TCEQ rules, the EWS will review this drought contingency plan not later than May 1, 2009 and every five years after that date. The plan will be updated as appropriate based on new or updated information. Updated copies of plans will be maintained on file at the office of EWS located in the community of Evadale.