



# Watering Restrictions Ordinance Update

Community Services Committee  
February 4, 2026

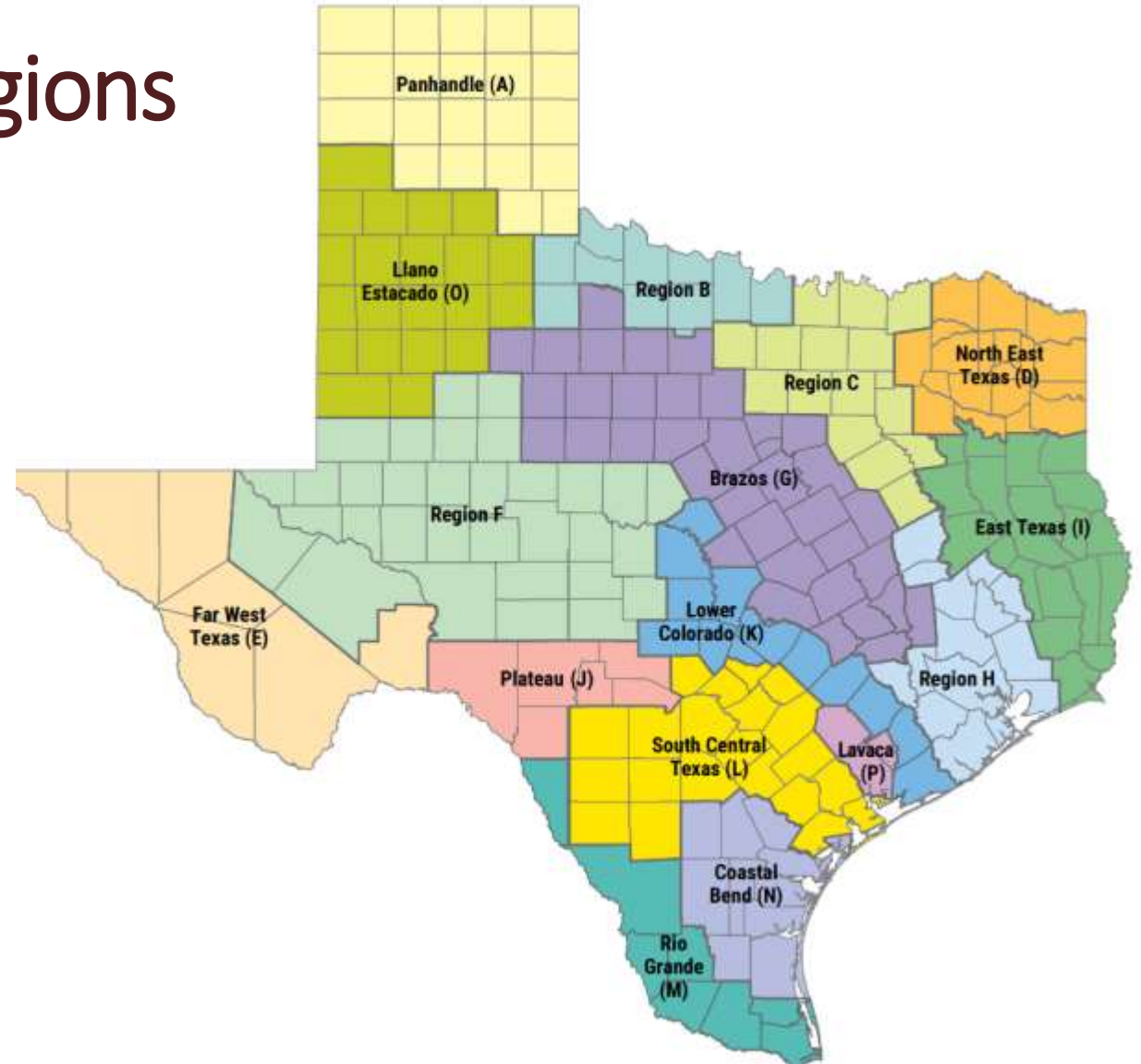


# Outline

- **High-level overview of state water use data**
- **Wholesale water supply agreement with Fort Worth**
- **Fort Worth changes to irrigation violations enforcement**
- **Corresponding revisions to Burleson ordinance and enforcement**
- **Discussion**

# State Water Planning Regions

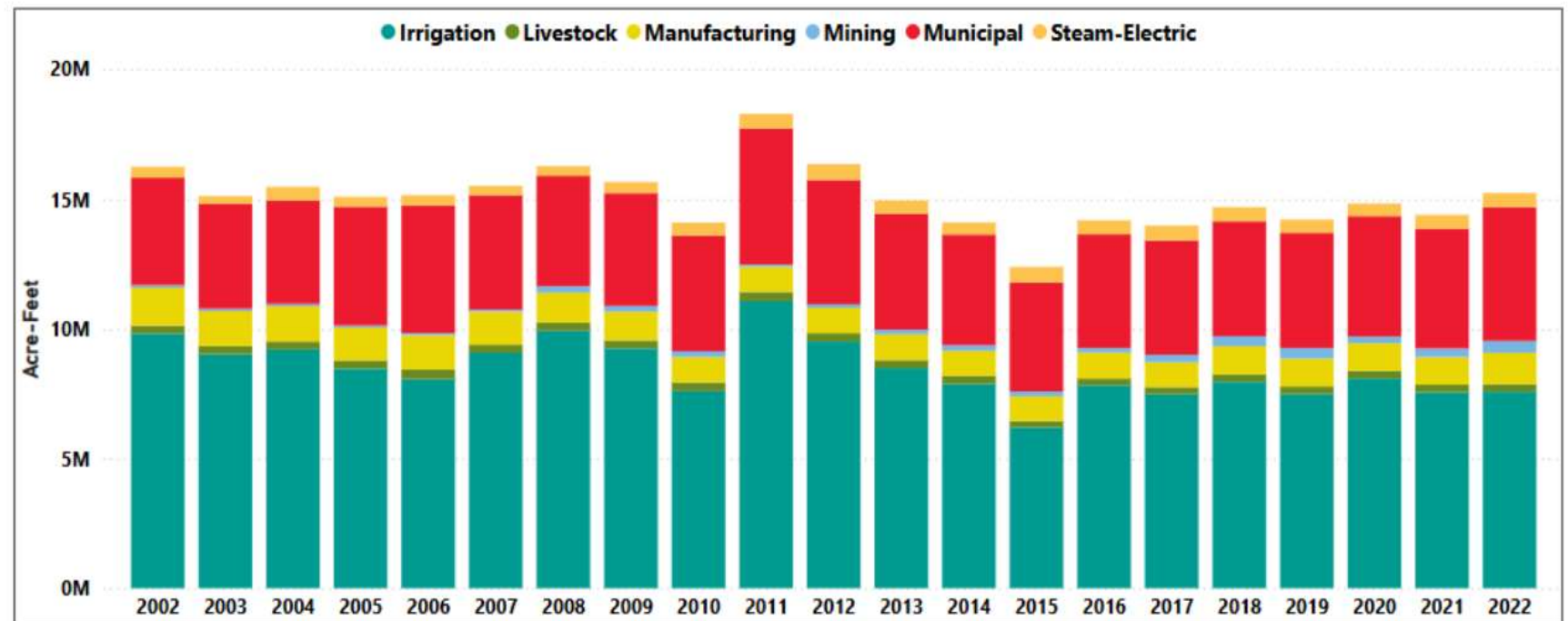
- Burleson physically lies within both Region C (Tarrant County) and Region G (Johnson County)
- Burleson's wholesale supply comes from City of Fort Worth



Source: Texas Water Development Board

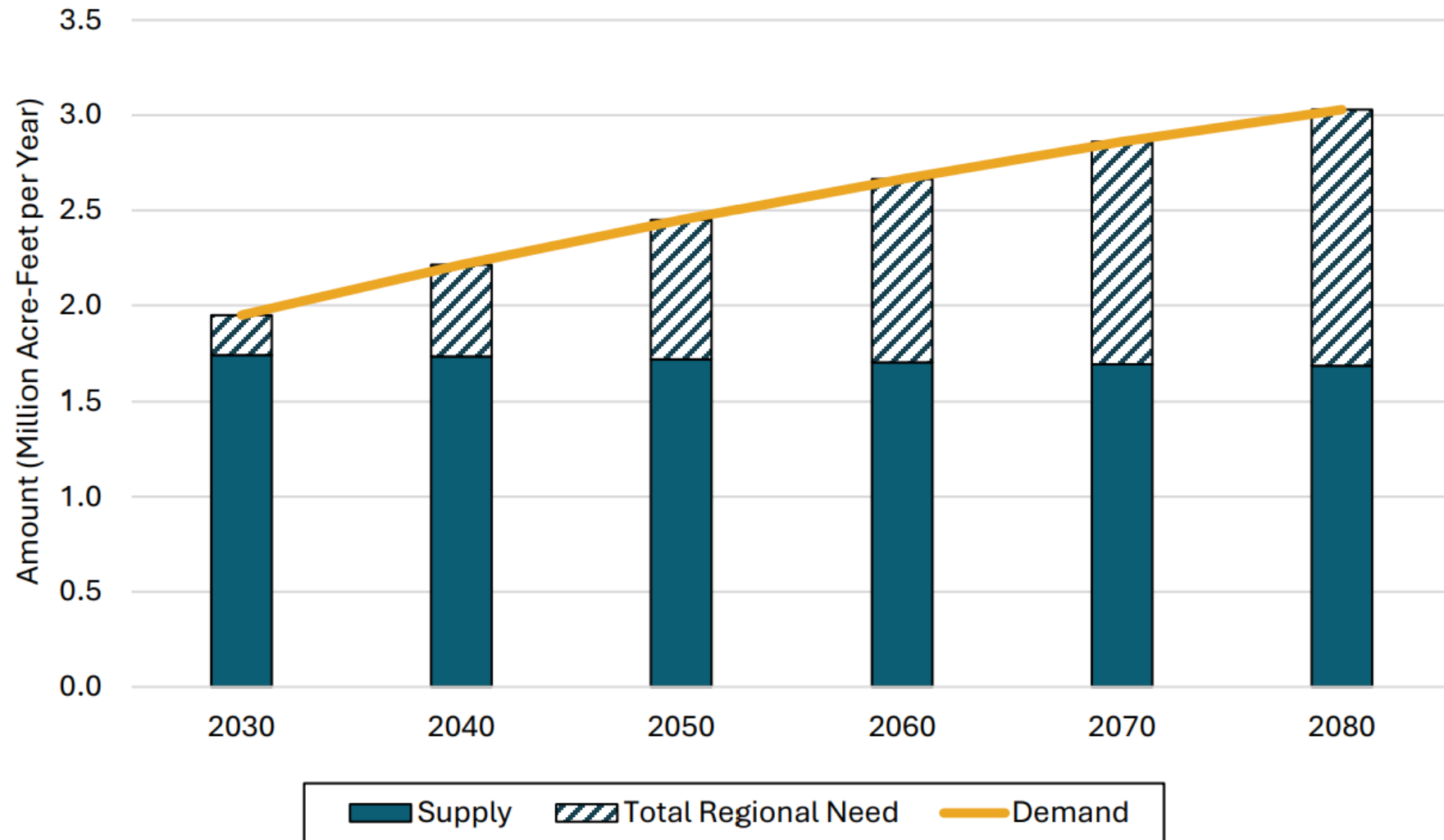
## Statewide Water Use Estimates for 2022

Total estimated water use for 2022 (including reported reuse) was about 15.2 million acre-feet (1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons) and was up from the previous year which was estimated at about 14.4 million acre-feet. The total 2022 estimated municipal water use slightly increased to 5.1 million acre-feet compared to 4.6 million acre-feet in 2021. Estimated irrigation water use in 2022 remained at 7.6 million acre-feet as in 2021. Irrigation water use (50%) topped the largest water use category in the state followed by municipal water use (34%). Manufacturing (8%), Power (4%), Mining (3%), and Livestock (2%), and estimated water use collectively comprised about 2.5 million acre-feet.



Source: TWDB, 2022  
Water Use Survey as  
of 1/9/2025

**FIGURE 4.1 COMPARISON OF CONNECTED SUPPLY WITH PROJECTED DEMAND BY DECADE**



Source: TWDB, 2026 Region C Water Plan

**TABLE 4.2 PROJECTED SHORTAGE BY USE TYPE FOR REGION C**

CATEGORY	VALUES IN ACRE-FEET PER YEAR					
	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Municipal	220,512	467,639	709,949	933,232	1,132,540	1,301,192
Irrigation	5,501	5,498	5,498	5,507	5,538	5,584
Livestock	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	9,142	19,946	24,070	27,767	31,018	33,740
Mining	123	211	890	2,587	5,105	8,473
Steam Electric Power	1,022	5,591	6,845	8,163	9,196	10,034
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236,300</b>	<b>498,885</b>	<b>747,252</b>	<b>977,256</b>	<b>1,183,397</b>	<b>1,359,023</b>

Projected shortage for irrigation alone just in Water Planning Region C is 5,501 acre-feet or approximately 1.8 Billion gallons in 2030

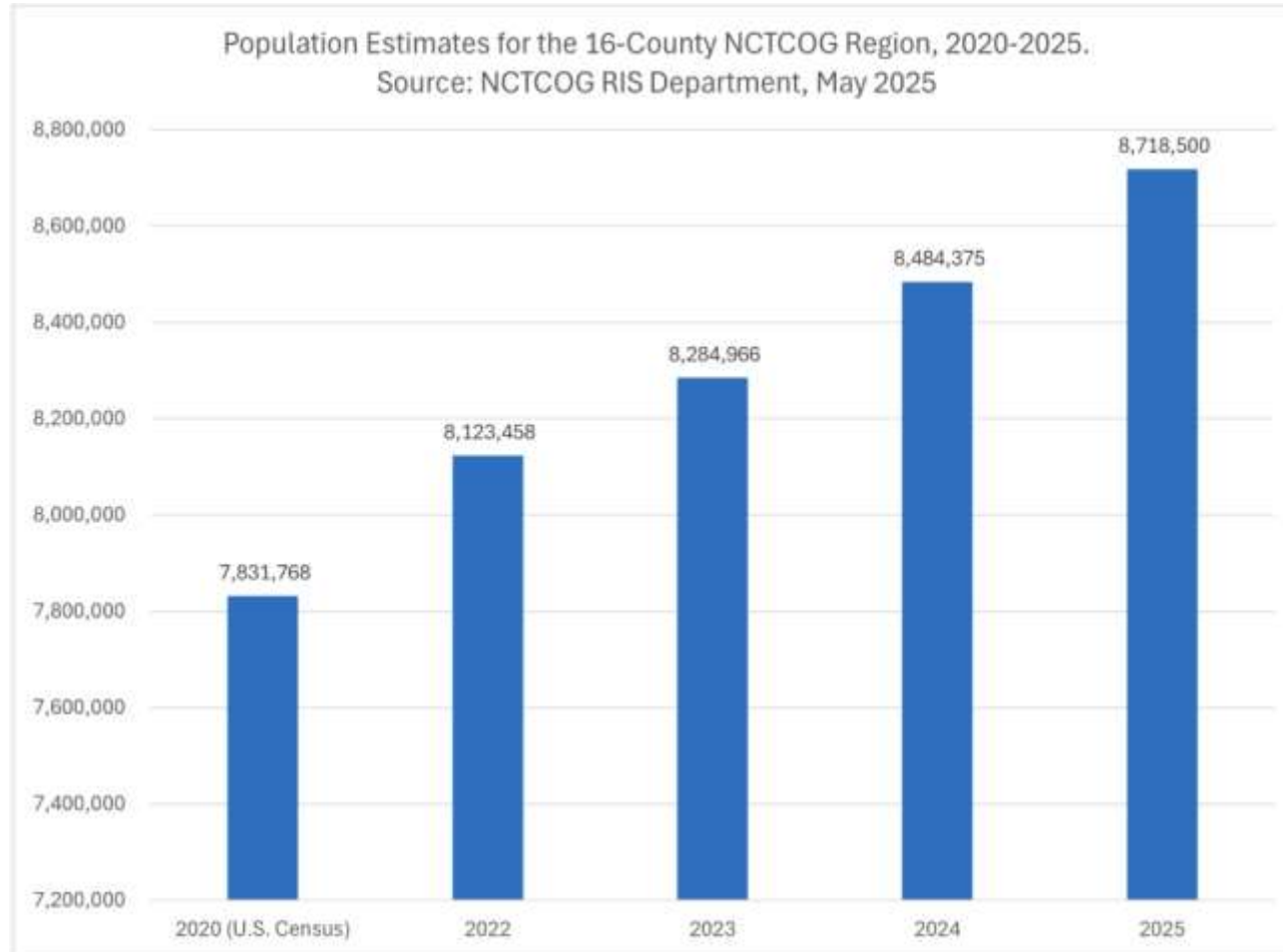
1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons

Source: TWDB, 2026 Region C Water Plan



# Additional Drivers

Continued population growth – approximately 200,000 people added to the region each year for the past five years



2026 FIFA World Cup – nine matches to be played in the region (said to be equivalent to hosting 10 Super Bowls) generating additional water demands this summer and making conservation even more important than normal



# Wholesale Water Agreement



Current agreement term is January 2011 through September 2031 and outlines items such as:

- How much water is made available to Burleson
- Where water will be delivered
- How Burleson will be charged and billed for the water
- How impact fees (for City of Fort Worth) apply to developments in Burleson
- How Burleson will enact the same water use restrictions, rationing, and conservation measures as the City of Fort Worth

Not updating our ordinance to remain in alignment with Fort Worth, could constitute a breach of the agreement.



# City of Fort Worth Changes



Fort Worth remains focused on the goal of voluntary compliance; however, sustained violations or nuisance conditions require more decisive measures to prevent water waste, reduce water system peak demands, and slow the need for costly system expansions.

On November 11, 2025, Fort Worth adopted updates to progressive enforcement process for violations of watering restrictions to:

- Incorporate use of AMI data to assess violations where applicable (visual inspections for residential properties)
- Assess a non-compliance administrative fee in lieu of civil penalties on a customer's monthly billing cycle
- Lock or shut off water service for repeated violations
- Establish requirements for re-establishment of service

# Current Burleson Irrigation Restrictions (Chapter 82-15, Ordinance CSO#130-01-2015)

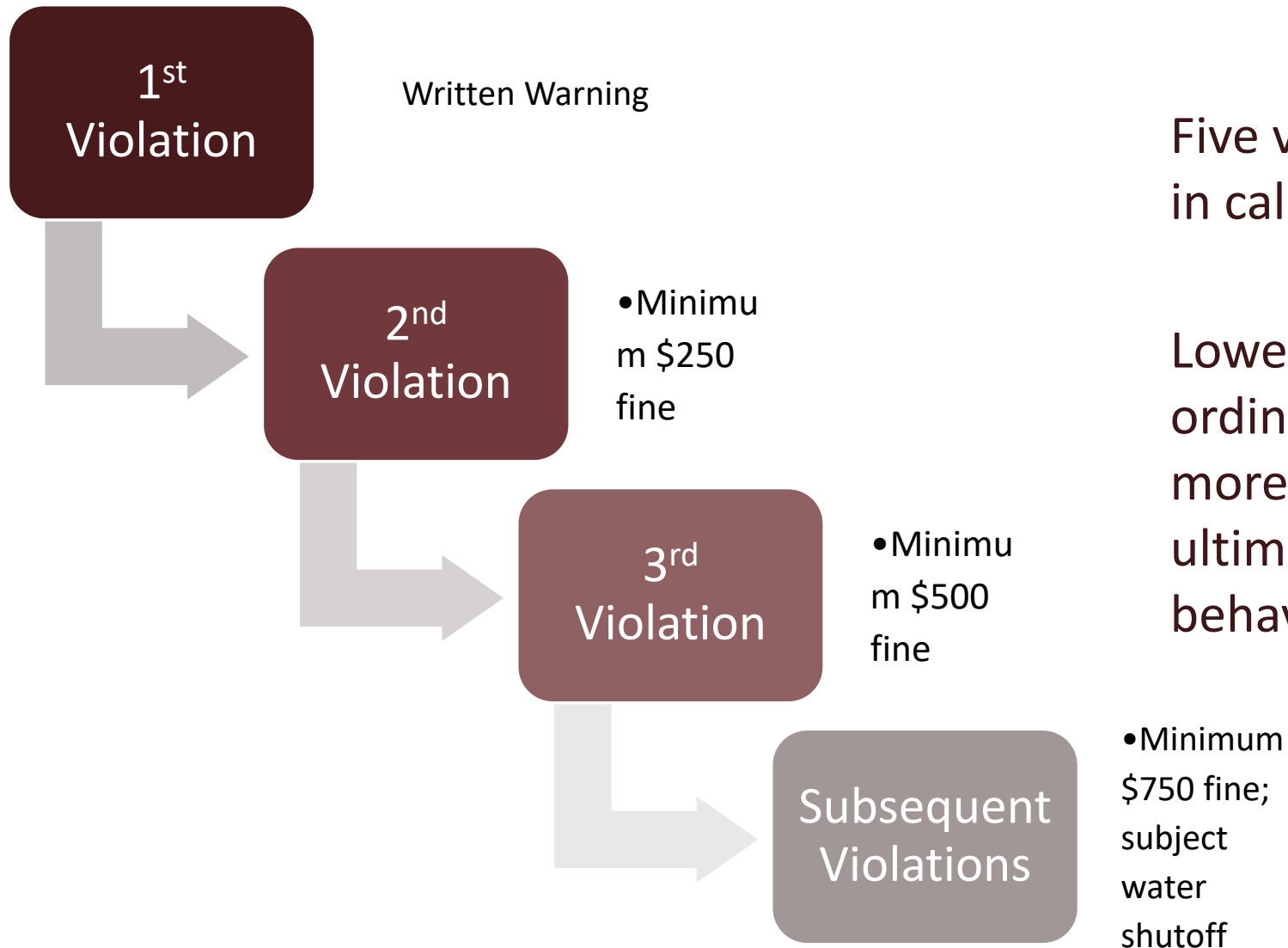


Except for hand watering and use of soaker hoses, irrigation/watering is **not allowed**:

- Between 10am and 6pm
- Any day other than the twice per week schedule outlined below:
  - Even-numbered single-family residential addresses – Wednesdays and Saturdays
  - Odd-numbered single-family residential addresses – Thursdays and Sundays
  - All non-residential (non-single-family residential) – Tuesdays and Fridays



# Penalties in Current Burleson Ordinance



Five violations were documented in calendar year 2025 in Burleson.

Lower penalties in the updated ordinance are intended to result in more consistent application and ultimately to result in the desired behavior change.




# Progressive Enforcement to Be Added for Burleson



Violation	Administrative Fee
1 <sup>st</sup> Notice of Violation	None (written notice)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Notice of Violation	\$25
3 <sup>rd</sup> Notice of Violation	\$50
4 <sup>th</sup> Notice of Violation	\$75
Non-emergency Termination of Water	Lock out fees, Lock out tampering fees (if applicable), and restoration fees

For example: Apartment Complex X is found running their sprinkler system on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> which is a violation since non-residential properties are only allowed to irrigate on Tuesdays and Fridays. They receive a 1<sup>st</sup> Notice of Violation and would have one month to address the issue (repair / reprogram the system, etc.). Apartment Complex X is found running the sprinkler system again on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> which is also a violation since Wednesdays are residential irrigation days. Apartment Complex X would now be assessed a \$25 administrative non-compliance fee for the second violation.

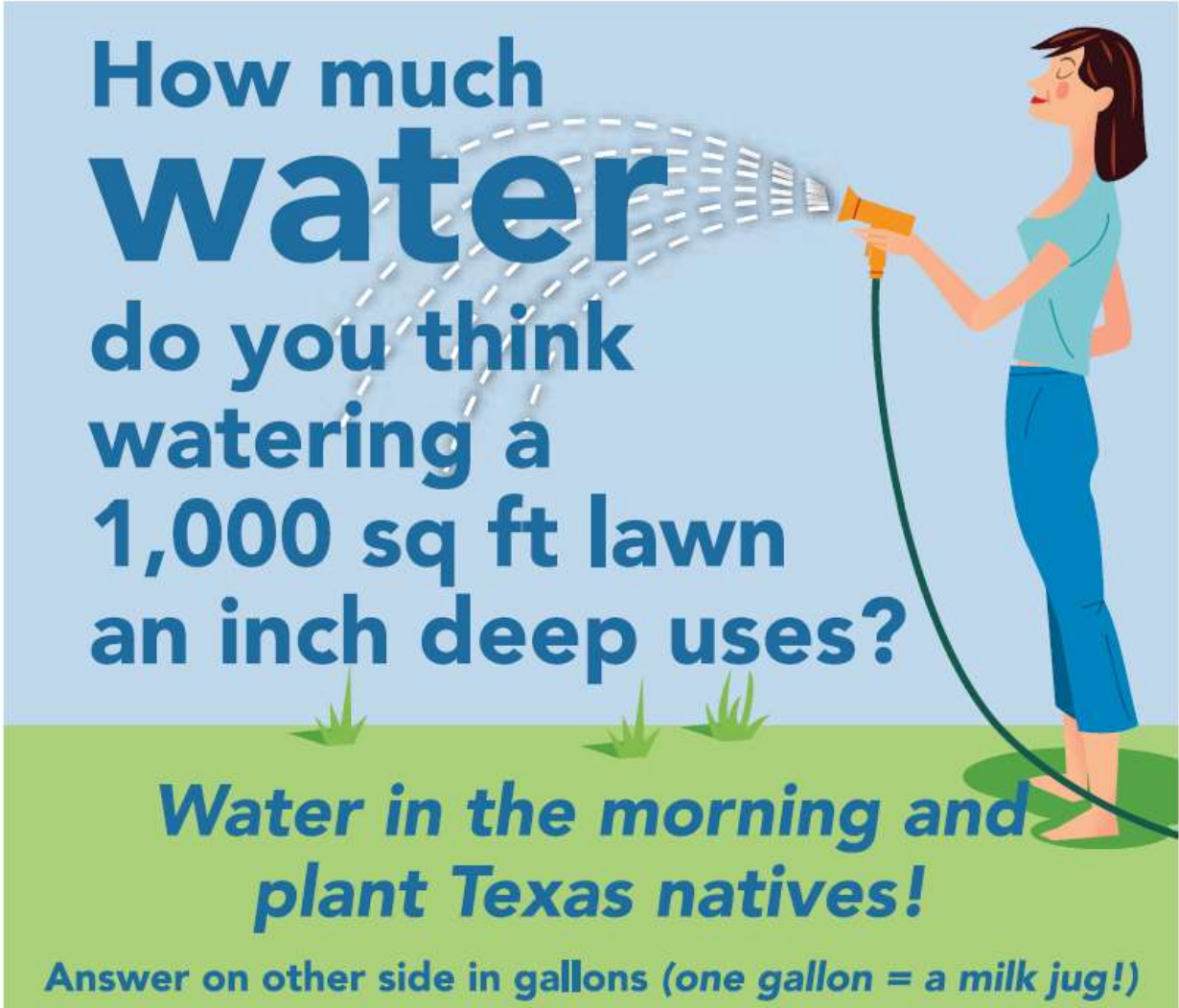
(Twice weekly watering schedule for Burleson adopted January 20, 2015)



How much  
**water**  
do you think  
playing with the  
garden hose for  
15 minutes uses?

*Play on the lawn  
not the sidewalk!*

Answer on other side in gallons (one gallon = a milk jug!)



How much  
**water**  
do you think  
watering a  
1,000 sq ft lawn  
an inch deep uses?

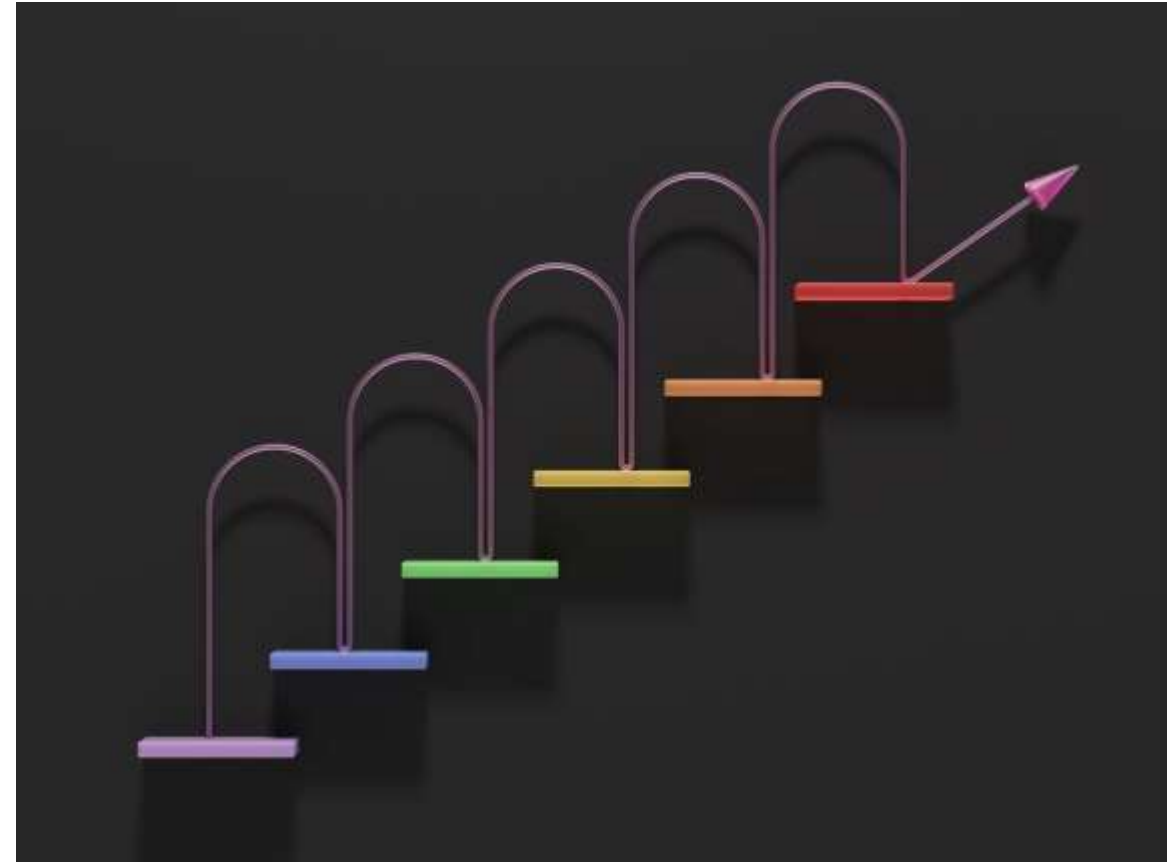
*Water in the morning and  
plant Texas natives!*

Answer on other side in gallons (one gallon = a milk jug!)

Credit: EPA WaterSense

# Next Steps

- Committee recommendation(s) to full Council sought today regarding changes to the ordinance and enforcement
- Public hearing and Council consideration of the ordinance in March 2026
- Outreach campaign to inform the public and raise awareness





# Questions / Discussion

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