

The City of Dripping Springs Water Conservation Plan

Prepared by
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1. Introduction

The City of Dripping Springs' ("City") water conservation plan has been developed to meet the LCRA Water conservation rules in accordance with the LCRA Firm Water contract administrative rules. This Plan recognizes that conservation is a valuable tool in managing water utility systems. Benefits of water conservation include: extending available water supplies; reducing the risk of shortage during periods of extreme drought; reducing water utility operating cost; improving the reliability and quality of water utility service; reducing customer cost for water service; and enhancing water quality and the environment.

This Plan applies to all of City's retail water customers located within its water service area, as defined in its Water Supply Contract with LCRA.

2. Utility Profile Information

As of March 2022, there were no permanent connections in the City's water service area. The projected population at full build out is estimated to be approximately 16,933 persons, or 4838 additional connections.

The City has not yet begun providing retail water service as of March 2022. Therefore, it does not yet have 5 years of water use data. In 2027, this WCP will be revised to evaluate the 5 year average daily water use, the five year average water loss, the five year peak to average day water use, and per capita water use.

3. Water Conservation Goals

Water conservation five and ten year goals are required for overall water use, residential water use and water loss. The goals proposed by the City are as follows:

	5-year goals	10-year goals
Gallons per person per day (GPCD)	150	125
Residential gallons per person per day (rGPCD)	150	125
Water loss	5%	5%

4. Water Conservation Strategies

4.1 Water Loss

4.1.1 Universal Metering and Meter Replacement and Repair

The City requires all water meters to be accurate within plus or minus 5 percent of the indicated flow over the possible flow range. All utility customers will be metered. Water will be metered at all wholesale connections. A regularly scheduled maintenance program of meter repair, replacement and calibration will be performed in accordance

with recommended meter manufacturer guidelines following the minimum schedule by meter size:

Production (master) meters:	Test once a year
Meters larger than 1”:	Test per manufacturer’s recommendations
Meters 1” or smaller:	Test per manufacturer’s recommendations

Zero consumption accounts will be checked to see if water is actually being used or not recorded. In addition, the meters will be checked for proper sizing.

4.1.2 Distribution System Leak Detection and Repair

The City will conduct leak detection and water audits, making appropriate repairs, in order to meet the utility water loss goal. Water loss audits will be performed in accordance with Texas Water Development Board rules.

Measures to proactively reduce water loss will be considered as feasible, including strategies to reduce line flushing and identify/repair water line leaks quickly.

4.1.3 Additional Water Loss Best Management Practices (all that apply are checked):

Automated meter reading (AMR) or Automated meter infrastructure (AMI). All meters will be compatible with automatic reading capabilities AMR or AMI technology will be considered for new meters as meters are replaced and it becomes feasible to implement this technology.

Customer portal which allows end users to check their water use online
 Dedicated irrigation meters will be required for all new commercial and industrial customers.

Strategies to minimize water loss on long dead-end main lines will be considered. Examples include adding meters along various line routes to collect more accurate data on water flowing through those routes and creating loops in the water distribution lines.

As feasible, chlorine injection stations will be placed strategically throughout the development to avoid the need for excessive flushing to keep chlorine residuals in compliance.

As feasible, a protective leak detection program will be developed to decrease water loss in the water distribution system.

As feasible, recycle backwash water used to keep sedimentation out of water treatment plant filters.

4.2 Water Rates and Records Management - required

Increasing Block Rates

The City’s retail rate is currently tied to the West Travis County’s wholesale rate. 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. The City's rate, therefore, will reflect that same multi-tiered, increasing block water rate that reflects the cost drivers for the water systems and sends a water conservation price signal to customers.

Water Monitoring and Records Management

The City's staff maintain records of water distribution and sales through a common monitoring and billing system to provide a central location for water billing information and a way to compile, present, and view water-use and billing information.

4.3 Water Reuse

The City operates a wastewater treatment plant.

Wastewater can be reused to supplement water supply needs for rights-of-ways and medians. The City has contracts and plans to expand its reuse capabilities for the water supply needs of Sports Rec Park (13.63 acres), Founders Park (2.64 acres), Driftwood Golf Course (130 acres), and Howard Ranch (100 acres).

4.4 Education and Outreach

4.4.1 Required measures

Throughout the year, water conservation literature will be made available to users regarding water conservation, native landscaping, and other related topics to garden clubs, homeowner associations, and various others interested groups. The City staff may attend such events or request a presentation from LCRA staff to promote water conservation.

4.4.2 Additional Best Management Practices (all that apply are checked).

Irrigation system evaluations will be offered to customers with large landscape irrigation needs (20,000 gal/month or over) in the utility service area. Irrigation evaluations consist of evaluating the irrigation system, checking for leaks and other performance problems, and customizing an irrigation schedule.

Financial rebates. Customers will be offered irrigation technology and other rebates from the LCRA. The City will assist LCRA with promoting water conservation programs to its customers.

Hotels will be strongly encouraged to adopt a hotel linen reuse option policy where linens are only changed out upon request during multi-night short stays.

4.5 Other Best Management Practices (all that apply are checked).

_____ Permanent landscape watering schedule for spray irrigation. This schedule limits outdoor spray irrigation for landscapes to the following days and times:

Residential addresses ending in odd numbers: Wednesdays and Saturdays

Residential addresses ending with even numbers: Thursdays and Sundays

Commercial customers: Tuesdays and Fridays

Watering times: Midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight

_____ Temporary landscape watering schedule variance for new landscapes. New landscapes can be watered according to the following schedule for the first 30 days after installation.

Days 1 through 10: spray irrigation allowed every day.

Days 11 through 20: spray irrigation allowed every other day.

Days 21 through 30: spray irrigation allowed every three days.

Watering times: Midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight.

5. Wholesale Water Conservation Plans - required

Wholesale treated water customers will be required to 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.

6. Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group - required

The service area of The City is located within the Lower Colorado River Water Planning Area (Region K) of the State of Texas and the District has provided or will provide a copy of this water conservation plan to the regional water planning group. The plan can be sent to the LCRA, c/o Water Contracts and Conservation, P.O. Box 220, Austin, Texas 78703.

7. Authorization and Implementation

The Deputy City Administrator, or his/her designee, of the City is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of the Plan. The Deputy City Administrator, or his/her designee, will act as Administrator of the Water Conservation Program. He/she will oversee the execution and implementation of the program and will be responsible for keeping adequate records for program verification. A signed and

dated copy of this plan by the Deputy City Administrator or his/her designee will be sufficient to meet this requirement.

7.1 Plan Implementation

The Deputy City Administrator has designated a water conservation coordinator, who will be responsible for the implementation of this water conservation plan. The current water conservation coordinator is Aaron Reed. The Deputy City Administrator, or his/her designee may re-appoint this position. At that time, the City will inform LCRA about this personnel change.

Approved by: Ginger Faught, Deputy City Administrator

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Customer representative with enforcement authority)