City of Dripping Springs Water Conservation Plan

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May 2025

1. Introduction

The City of Dripping Springs water conservation plan has been developed to meet the LCRA Water Conservation Plan Rules for Water Sale Contracts in accordance with the LCRA Water Contract 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 The City of Dripping Springs ’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 December 2024, there were approximately 185 connections in the City of Dripping Springs’s water service area. Based on 2020 census data, there were 2.53 persons per household in this service area, and 173 residential connections, so the estimated population is 438 The projected population at full build out is estimated to be approximately 10,920persons, or 4143 additional connections. Full build out is expected to grow at 49.5% per year with a projected completion year of 2032. The City of Dripping Springs does operate a wastewater treatment plant. The treated wastewater effluent currently produced is 311,444 gallons per day.

Table 1 in Appendix A provides tables on water use data for the past two years. The two-year average daily water use was344,526 GPD .The City of Dripping Springs does not have sufficient data for an average water loss. The two-year peak to average daily water use was2.01. Current per capita water use is 227 total gallons per person per day (GPCD) and 226 residential GPCD.

3. Water Conservation Goals

Water conservation five- and 10-year goals are required for overall water use, residential water use and water loss. The goals proposed by the City of Dripping Springs are as follows:

	Five-year goals	10-year goals
Gallons per person per day (GPCD)	210	200
Residential gallons per person per day (rGPCD)	210	200
Commercial gallons day (GPD)	232,790	220,538
Water loss (in GPCD)	35	35
Percent of Reclaimed to Potable Water Usage at Golf Course	100%	100%

Currently, most of the City of Dripping Springs's usage comes from irrigating the Driftwood golf course. As the City's wastewater treatment capacity increases, the golf course will start using reclaimed water for irrigation. We project the golf course will solely be using reclaimed water to irrigate in five years. The five-year and ten-year goals reflect this projection. As stated above, the City does not have water loss data. Our water loss projections are based on 7% of the total water usage.

4. Water Conservation Strategies

4.1 Water Loss

4.1.1 Universal Metering and Meter Replacement and Repair - Required

The City of Dripping Springs requires all water meters to be accurate within plus or minus 5% of the indicated flow over the possible flow range. All utility customers will be metered. Water will be metered in and out of all water treatment plants. 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 inch:	Test once a year
Meters 1 inch or smaller:	Test per manufacturer's recommendations

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

4.1.2 Distribution System Leak Detection and Repair- Required

The City of Dripping Springs 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 and The City of Dripping Springs will review TWDB Municipal BMP 4.2 Utility Water Audit & Water Loss prior to conducting a water loss audit. LCRA water customers may qualify for financial assistance for conducting comprehensive water audits.

Measures to proactively reduce water loss will be considered as feasible, including measures to reduce water lost within the water treatment process as well as strategies to reduce line flushing and identify/repair water line leaks quickly.

4.1.3 Additional Water Loss Best Management Practices (BMPs)

(Not required by LCRA, but highly encouraged. Please check all that apply.)

__✓__ All meters are compatible with automatic reading capabilities. The City of Dripping Springs has implemented automated meter reading (AMR) and receives monthly water use data by driving the service area.

_____ The City of Dripping Springs is in the process of converting to automated meter infrastructure (AMI), which is scheduled to be complete in 20XX.

__✓__ All meters are read automatically using automated meter infrastructure (AMI) and The City of Dripping Springs receives real-time water use data.

_____ The City of Dripping Springs staff send leak alerts to customer using AMI data reports.

__✓__ A customer portal allows end users to check their water use online.

__✓__ Adoption of TWDB Municipal BMP 9.1 Prohibition on Wasting Water.

_____ A requirement for submeters for irrigation for all new commercial and industrial customers.

_____ A requirement for submeters for irrigation for all new residential properties.

__✓__ 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 will be used to keep sedimentation out of water treatment plant filters.

4.2 Water Rates and Records Management - Required

4.2.1 Increasing Block Rates

The City of Dripping Springs currently uses an increasing block rate structure to reflect the cost drivers for the water systems and sends a conservation price signal to customers. The City of Dripping Springs will periodically evaluate its rate structure to promote conservation to the maximum extent possible. Updated rate schedules for these systems shall be submitted to LCRA within 30 days of approval. The current rate structure will be submitted with this plan to LCRA and will be located on the utility web site.

4.2.2 Water Monitoring and Records Management

The City of Dripping Springs'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.

The billing system is capable of separating water use per customer type into the following categories: single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, agricultural and wholesale. This capability has not been implemented yet. Any new billing system purchased will be capable of reporting detailed water use data by the sectors listed.

4.2.3 Additional Water Monitoring, Records Management and Planning Best Management Practices (BMPs)

(Not required by LCRA, but highly encouraged. Please check all that apply.)

Conservation related planning efforts that take into consideration the customer characteristics of each utility are an important part of a comprehensive and successful water conservation program.

____ Consideration of TWDB Municipal BMP 2.4 Customer Characterization: Analysis to Prioritize BMP selection.

____ Consideration of TWDB Municipal BMP 2.3 Water Survey for Single-Family and Multi-Family Customers, as applicable.

____ Adoption of a method for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of conservation measures [include description of method].

4.3 Permanent Watering Schedule - Required

A permanent landscape watering schedule must limit outdoor spray irrigation for landscapes to no more than twice per week and only between the hours of midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight.

Suggested schedule:

Residential addresses ending in odd numbers: Wednesdays and Saturdays
Residential addresses ending with even numbers: Thursdays and Sundays
Commercial customers: Tuesdays and Fridays

If adopting an alternate watering schedule, please list the schedule below:

Irrigate outdoors using automatic or manual irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers no more than **TWICE per week** for up to **14 hours** and only during 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 and public schools)
Tuesdays and Fridays

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

4.3.1 Additional Water Loss Best Management Practices
(Not required by LCRA, but highly encouraged. Please check all that apply.)

4.4 Water Reuse – Required to address applicability, if relevant

For utilities operating a wastewater treatment plant:

If wastewater treatment is required on-site, a development design plan should include a reuse system designed to deliver wastewater for the following types of water uses once the wastewater volume is adequate:

__✓__ Irrigation of right-of-ways and medians
____ Irrigation of athletic fields (list names and acreage_____)
__✓__ Irrigation of parks (Sports Rec Park (13.63 acres), Founders Park (2.64 acres), Howard Ranch (100 acres))
____ Irrigation of golf courses ()
____ Other (

The treated wastewater effluent currently produced is 311,444 gallons per day and 99.7% of that effluent is used for the irrigation uses listed above.

(If no wastewater effluent is reused, state why it is not reused.)

4.4.1 Additional Water Reuse Best Management Practices

____ Consideration of TWDB Municipal BMP 8.3 Water Reuse.

__✓__ Expand water reuse system to reach approximately 317 additional acres of irrigated right-of-ways, parks, and open space. (i.e., sports fields).

4.5 Education and Outreach

4.5.1 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 other interested groups. The City of Dripping Springs staff may attend such events or request a presentation from LCRA staff to promote water conservation.

4.5.2 Additional Education and Outreach Best Management Practices (BMPs)
(Not required by LCRA, but highly encouraged. Please check all that apply.)

____ Irrigation system evaluations will be offered to customers with large landscape irrigation needs in the utility service area following TWDB Municipal BMP 5.5 Residential Landscape Irrigation Evaluations and offered and actively marketed individually to all customers using over 25,000 gallons per month during peak irrigation months. Irrigation evaluations consist of evaluating the irrigation system, checking for leaks and other performance problems, and customizing an irrigation schedule.

__✓_ Customers will be offered rebates for irrigation system equipment, irrigation system evaluations, pools, landscapes and soil testing from LCRA, as listed on LCRA's website. The City of Dripping Springs will assist LCRA with promoting water conservation programs to its customers.

____ Consideration of TWDB Municipal BMP 5.3 Landscape Irrigation Conservation and Incentives, as applicable.

____ Consideration of TWDB Municipal BMP 9.2 Conservation Ordinance Planning and Development.

__✓__ 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.

4.6 Other Best Management Practices for New Development

(Not required by LCRA, but highly encouraged. Please check all that apply.)

_____ 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.

_____ Landscape conservation standards for new development. The City of Dripping Springs will incorporate standards included in Appendix B of this plan into its adopted rules and regulations, and will follow the ordinance approach described in TWDB Municipal BMP 7.5 Water Wise Landscape Design and Conversion Programs.

____ The City of Dripping Springs will adopt TWDB Municipal BMP 9.3, Enforcement of Texas Irrigation Standards.

_____ Swimming pool conservation standards for new development**.** The City of Dripping Springs will incorporate standards included in Appendix C of this plan into its adopted rules and regulations.

____ A requirement for submeters at every residential property for new development.

5. Wholesale Water Conservation Plans - Required

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.

6. Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group - Required

The service area of The City of Dripping Springs 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 general manager, or his/her designee, of The City of Dripping Springs is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of the plan. The general manager, 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 general manager, or his/her designee, will be sufficient to meet this requirement.

7.1 Plan Implementation

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

Approved by: _____ (print name)
Signature:_____ Date: _____
(Customer representative with enforcement authority)

Appendix A – Historical Water Use Data – Table 1

Table 1: Monthly Water Use

Month	2020 (insert unit)	2021 (insert unit)	2022 (insert unit)	2023 (1000 gallons)	2024 (1000 gallons)	Average
January				**2581**	**1691**	**2136**
February				**3745**	**3136**	**3441**
March				**5624**	**4969**	**5297**
April				**3925**	**8276**	**6101**
May				**7058**	**10818**	**8938**
June				**13891**	**17675**	**15783**
July				**15957**	**18533**	**17245**
August				**16513**	**26834**	**21674**
September				**15938**	**20354**	**18146**
October				**15043**	**20048**	**17546**
November				**1770**	**7845**	**4808**
December				**2365**	**6908**	**4637**
Total				**104410**	**147087**	**125752**

Appendix B - Landscape Conservation Standards

These standards are similar to the Greater Austin Homebuilder “Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas” guidelines developed with significant input from the LCRA. The standards are meant to provide builders and homeowners with a well-designed, water-efficient landscape. The standards can be adopted through ordinance, deed restriction or covenant where economically feasible and allowed by federal, state and local law.

Design

A. No more than 50% or up to 7,000 square feet of the landscape shall be planted in turf. Longer leafed native grasses and wildflowers that use low amounts of water are not considered turf grass when determining how much turf grass is allowed.

B. Automatic spray irrigation for each home/business shall be limited to 2.5 times the foundation footprint, with a 12,000-square-foot maximum. The footprint may include both the house and the garage, but not the driveway or patio.

See the City of Dripping Springs Landscape Ordinance attached to the end of the Water Conservation Plan for more information on landscape standards.

Appendix C – New Pool Construction Standards

The following standards are voluntary. Educational documents will be provided to builders applying for building permits.

A. Private residential swimming pools shall not be installed with sand media filters.
B. Pool water features installed with public swimming pools or private residential swimming pools must be designed so the water feature can be turned off without affecting the filtering capabilities of the pool. Automatic pool fill features must be designed so they can be turned off in both public and private residential swimming pools.
C. Pools with shared water between the pool and spa shall be designed so water can be shared without the necessity of an above-ground water feature that cannot be turned off. If a water feature between the spa and the pool exists, the default setting will be for it to be turned off.
D. Automatic pool fill features must include an automatic pool shut-off feature.
E. Vanishing or negative edge pools must be designed with catch basins large enough to prevent splashing that leads to increased water use.
F. Backwash systems must be designed so they may be turned off.
G. Pool skimmers should be managed in such a way as to minimize water consumption. The range of allowable water within the skimmer fill range should allow for several inches of evaporative loss prior to filling.
H. All residential swimming pools shall have a hose end timer installed at the nearest hose bib location. In addition, a hose bib back-flow prevention device must be connected to the hose bib fixtures nearest to the pool.
I. All residential swimming pools shall be installed with a permanent automatic pool cover to minimize evaporative loss when not in use.