

**Drought Contingency Plan  
For Municipal Water Use**

**For**

**The City of Dripping Springs, Texas**

**Prepared By: The AL Law Group, PLLC  
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# **The City of Dripping Springs, Texas**

## **DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR MUNICIPAL WATER USE**

### **1.0 Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) provides contracts to customers for water supply. In cases of extreme drought, periods of abnormally high usage, system contamination, or extended reduction in ability to supply water due to equipment failure, LCRA may require water customers to institute temporary restrictions to limit non-essential water usage. This Drought Contingency Plan (Plan) is designed to protect the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation and fire protection during the periods or other water supply emergencies.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Plan are considered to be non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply conditions are deemed to constitute a waste of water.

### **2.0 Authorization**

The designated manager or official of the City of Dripping Springs is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The designated manager or official of the City of Dripping Springs shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan. This authorization was designated as part of the plan's approval by the City Council of the City of Dripping Springs (*See Appendix G*).

### **3.0 Public Education**

The designated manager or official of the City of Dripping Springs will periodically provide its employees, members, and the general public with information about this Plan, including the importance of the Plan, information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated, processes used to reduce water use, and impending or current drought conditions.

### **4.0 Coordination with Regional Planning Groups**

The City of Dripping Springs has provided a copy of this Plan to the Lower Colorado Regional Planning Group (Region K).

## **5.0 Notice Requirements**

The City of Dripping Springs shall notify the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and LCRA General Manager in writing within five (5) business days of the implementation of any mandatory provisions of the Drought Contingency Plan.

## **6.0 Permanent Water Use Restrictions**

The following restrictions apply to all the City of Dripping Springs water utility system(s) 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 broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet;
- 2) Operate an irrigation system:
  - with a broken head;
  - with a head that is out of adjustment and the arc of the spray head is over a street or parking area; or
  - with a head that is fogging or misting because of excessive water pressure.
  - Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- 3) During irrigation, allow water:
  - to run off a property and form a stream of water in a street for a distance of 50 feet or greater; or
  - 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 scheduled days and times as indicated in Appendix A.

## **7.0 Initiation and Termination of Response Stages**

The City of Dripping Springs' designated manager or official shall monitor water supply and demand conditions on a regular basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation and termination of each stage of this Plan in accordance with LCRA's Water Management Plan. Water supply conditions will be determined by the source of supply, system capacity, and weather conditions. Water demand will be measured by the peak daily demands on the system.

Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by a variety of ways, examples include: bill inserts, e-mail and automated telephone calls, signs posted at entry points to the service area or a combination of these methods.

The following triggering criteria shall apply to the City of Dripping Springs' water utility system(s) and customer service area:

## **7.1 Triggering Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

- **STAGE 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions (Voluntary Measures)**
  - A. **Requirements for initiation** - Customers shall be requested to adhere to the Stage 1 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:
    - 1. Treatment Capacity:
      - For surface water systems, when total daily water demand equals or exceeds 80 percent of the total operating system treatment capacity for three consecutive days, or 85 percent on a single day; or
      - For groundwater systems, when maximum daily usage equals or exceeds 70 percent of the pump's withdrawal capacity for three consecutive days.
    - 2. Water Supply:
      - Combined storage of Lakes Travis and Buchanan reaches 1.4 million acre-feet in accordance with the LCRA Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers (DCP).
  - B. **Requirements for termination** - Stage 1 of the plan may be rescinded when:
    - 1. Treatment Capacity:
      - The water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event for Stage 1 has ceased to exist for five consecutive days; or
      - The groundwater pumpage amounts have fallen below the 70 percent threshold, and remained below that level for five consecutive days.
    - 2. Water Supply:
      - LCRA announces that voluntary restrictions by its firm raw water customers are no longer needed in accordance with the LCRA DCP.
- (2) **STAGE 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**
  - A. **Requirements for initiation** - Customers shall be required to adhere to the Stage 2 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:
    - 1. Treatment Capacity:
      - For surface water systems, when total daily water demand equals or exceeds 93 percent of the total operating system treatment capacity for three consecutive days, or 95 percent on a single day; or
      - For groundwater systems, when maximum daily usage equals or exceeds 85 percent of the pump's withdrawal capacity for three consecutive days.
    - 2. Water Supply:
      - Combined storage of Lakes Travis and Buchanan reaches 900,000 acre-feet in accordance with the LCRA DCP.

**B. Requirements for termination** - Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

1. Treatment Capacity:

- The water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event for Stage 2 has ceased to exist for five consecutive days; or
- The groundwater pumpage amounts have fallen below the 85 percent threshold, and remained below that level for five consecutive days.

2. Water Supply:

- LCRA announces that voluntary compliance to implement a utility's mandatory water restrictions are no longer needed in accordance with the LCRA DCP.

*Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.*

**(3) STAGE 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

**A. Requirements for initiation** - Customers shall be required to adhere to the Stage 3 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:

1. Treatment Capacity:

- For surface water systems, when total daily water demand equals or exceeds 95 percent of the total operating system treatment capacity for three consecutive days, or 97 percent on a single day; or
- For groundwater systems, when maximum daily usage equals or exceeds 95 percent of the pump's withdrawal capacity for three consecutive days.

2. Water Supply:

- Combined storage of Lakes Travis and Buchanan reaches 600,000 acre-feet, in accordance with the LCRA DCP, or
- 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.

**B. Requirements for termination** - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

1. Treatment Capacity:

- The water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event for Stage 3 has ceased to exist for five consecutive days; or
- The groundwater pumpage levels have fallen below the 95 percent threshold and remained below that level for five consecutive days.

2. Water Supply:

- LCRA announces that mandatory water restrictions for firm water customers are no longer required in accordance with the LCRA DCP.

*Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.*

#### **(4) STAGE 4- Critical Water Conditions**

A. **Requirements for initiation** - Customers shall be required to adhere to the Stage 4 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:

1. Treatment Capacity:
  - Major water line breaks, loss of distribution pressure, or pump system failures that cause substantial loss in its ability to provide water service.
2. Water Supply:
  - The LCRA Board declares a prolonged drought worse than the Drought of Record or other water supply emergency and orders the mandatory curtailment of firm water supplies at a level more severe than in Stage 3.

B. **Requirements for termination** - Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

1. Treatment Capacity:
  - The water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event for Stage 4 has ceased to exist for five consecutive days; or
2. Water Supply:
  - LCRA announces that mandatory water restrictions for firm water customers are no longer required in accordance with the LCRA DCP.

*Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.*

#### **(5) STAGE 5- Emergency Water Conditions**

A. **Requirements for initiation** - Customers shall be required to adhere to the Stage 5 Drought Response Measures when one or a combination of such triggering criteria occurs:

1. Treatment Capacity:
  - Major water line breaks, loss of distribution pressure, or pump system failures that cause substantial loss in its ability to provide water service.
2. Water Supply:
  - Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source; or
  - Any other emergency water supply or demand conditions that the LCRA general manager or the LCRA Board determines that either constitutes a water supply emergency or is associated with a prolonged drought worse than the Drought of Record requiring the mandatory curtailment of firm water supplies at a level more severe than in Stage 4.

B. **Requirements for termination** - Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when:

1. Treatment Capacity:
  - The water treatment plant capacity condition listed above as a triggering event for Stage 5 has ceased to exist for five consecutive days; or

2. Water Supply:
  - LCRA announces that mandatory water restrictions for firm water customers are no longer required in accordance with the LCRA DCP.

*Upon termination of Stage 5, Stage 4 becomes operative.*

## **8.0 Drought Response Measures**

### **8.1 Targets for Water-Use Reductions**

**(1) STAGE 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions (Voluntary Measures)**

System Capacity Reduction Target: Limit daily water demand to no more than 80% capacity for three days or 85% for one day.

Water Supply Reduction Target: Achieve a 5% reduction in water use.

**(2) STAGE 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

System Capacity Reduction Target: Limit daily water demand to no more than 80% capacity for three days or 85% for one day.

Water Supply Reduction Target: Achieve a 10-20% reduction in water use.

**(3) STAGE 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

System Capacity Reduction Target: Limit daily water demand to no more than 80% capacity for three days or 85% for one day.

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

**(4) STAGE 4 - Critical Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

System Capacity Reduction Target: Limit daily water demand to no more than 80% capacity for three days or 85% for one day.

Water Supply Reduction Target: As determined by the LCRA Board.

**(5) STAGE 5 - Emergency Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

System Capacity Reduction Target: Limit daily water demand to no more than 80% capacity for three days or 85% for one day.

Water Supply Reduction Target: As determined by the LCRA Board.

### **8.2 Retail Customers Measures**

**(1) STAGE 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions (Voluntary Measures)**

A. Supply Management Measures: The City of Dripping Springs will review system operations and identify ways to improve system efficiency and accountability.



B. Demand Management Measures:

1. Ask customers to voluntarily comply with the water-use restrictions outlined in Stage 2 of this plan;
2. Actively promote drought related issues and the need to conserve;
3. If appropriate for the utility system, explore ways to implement permanent water efficiency ordinances relating to uses such as vehicle washing facilities, pressure washing equipment, drought tolerant landscaping for all new landscapes, irrigation evaluations for large properties.

(2) **STAGE 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

A. Supply Management Measures:

1. Apply all water-use restrictions prescribed for Stage 2 of the plan for the City of Dripping Springs' utility owned facilities and properties;
2. Explore ways to reduce system water loss by measures such as fixing leaks, replacing old meters, and recycling line flush water, as appropriate for the utility system.
3. Explore ways to increase use of recycled wastewater to reduce irrigation of public parks with potable water, as appropriate for the utility system.
4. The City of Dripping Springs will actively communicate drought-related issues, including the current and projected water supply conditions, water supply restrictions and the need to conserve to its retail customers.

B. Demand Management Measures:

Under threat of penalty, the following water-use restrictions shall apply to all retail water customers:

1. Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:
  - a. **If the combined water storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis are less than 900,000 AF but greater than 750,000 AF** - Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or in-ground irrigation systems shall be limited to a no more than a TWICE weekly watering schedule determined by The City of Dripping Springs. Irrigation of commercial landscapes and recreational areas may apply for a variance but must still develop a schedule where no part of the landscape is watered more than twice per week. *See Appendix A - The City of Dripping Springs Water System - Recommended Watering Schedule.*
  - b. **If the combined water storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis are less than or equal to 750,000 AF** - Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or in-ground irrigation systems shall be limited to a no more than a ONCE weekly watering schedule with a maximum **15 hour** irrigation window as determined by The City of Dripping Springs. Irrigation of commercial landscapes and recreational areas may apply for a variance but must still develop a schedule where no part of the landscape is watered more than once per week.

- c. Outdoor watering hours will be limited to between midnight and 10 a.m. and between 7 p.m. and midnight on designated days. This prohibition does not apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:
  - i. a hand-held hose with a positive shut off device; or
  - ii. a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five gallons or less
  - iii. Drip irrigation
- d. New landscapes may be installed and re-vegetation seeding performed under these specific criteria:
  - i. A completed variance form for new landscapes has been submitted to the The City of Dripping Springs and has been approved prior to the installation of the landscape, or re-vegetation seed application
  - ii. Irrigation of the new landscape follows the schedule identified in the new landscape variance. The schedule will be developed to minimize water waste.
  - iii. Areas being re-vegetated for soil stabilization must also comply with the (i) and (ii) specific criteria above. Alternative options to re-vegetation such as mulch may be available in times of low water supply. Specific information regarding options is available in the LCRA Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance Technical Manual.
  - iv. Variances for new landscapes may be issued for a period of no more than 30 days from the day of issuance. A variance is not an exemption from compliance with the permanent water use restrictions under Section 9.2 of this plan. Variances will not be granted for seasonal “color bed” or temporary grass installation (overseeding).

2. 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 midnight and 10 a.m. and between 7 p.m. and midnight. 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.

3. Pools:

- a. Draining and re-filling 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. Public/community swimming pools are allowed to fill or replenish water in order to maintain safe levels of water quality for human contact and for maintenance as outlined above.

4. Outside Water Features:

- a) Operation of outside water features except for, ornamental fountains with a 4 inch emission or fall of water<sup>1</sup> that are recirculating, is prohibited, except where such features are used for aeration necessary to sustain aquatic life or maintain water quality. (This provision includes recirculating fountains associated with aesthetic ponds and swimming pools unless required for filtration).
- b) Operation of outdoor misting systems at a commercial facility is prohibited, except between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight,
- c) Splash pad type fountains must be recirculating and should have an automatic timer shut-off feature when not in use unless public health and safety is compromised by installing a shut-off feature.

5. 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. The City of Dripping Springs may request specific design documentation regarding a pond and the intended purpose.

6. Golf Courses:

Golf courses receiving any amount of treated water from a City of Dripping Springs utility must either develop a drought contingency plan that meets the minimum water reduction target set for Stage 2 or adopt the LCRA sample golf course drought contingency plan.

7. 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 recirculating device, or onto a pervious surface to prevent water waste.

- a) A charity car wash may not be conducted unless it occurs at a commercial vehicle washing facility.

8. Restaurants:

Restaurants, bars, and other commercial food or beverage establishments are encouraged not to provide drinking water to customers unless a specific request is made by the customer for drinking water.

9. Hotels/motels:

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted from the City of Austin's 2012 Drought Contingency Plan update, which went through an extensive public input process. This measure was proposed by the fountain industry through that process.

The owner or operator of a hotel, motel short term rental or other establishment that offers or provides lodging or rental accommodations for compensation are encouraged to offer a towel and linen reuse water conservation option to its lodgers, renters, or customers and maintain in each applicable guest room, suite, or property informational signage to communicate information relating to this requirement and to offer the opportunity for guest participation

10. Fire Hydrants:

Use of water from fire hydrants shall be prohibited for landscape irrigation, filling pools, operating fountains, car washing. Water should be transported only for the purposes of firefighting or providing minimal water needed for indoor use where auxiliary sources are inadequate and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare, or for construction use. Transport of water other than for firefighting requires a variance and a meter.

11. Recreational areas (includes public parks):

Watering must follow a no more than twice per week schedule for each irrigated area. A variance can be obtained if watering cannot be completed on the designated two day schedule

12. Athletic fields

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

13. Water Waste

The following non-essential uses of water are prohibited at all times during periods in which restrictions have gone into effect:

a. Washing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, street, tennis courts, and other impervious surfaces is prohibited except for immediate health and safety;

b. Use of water to wash buildings, houses or structures with a pressure washer is restricted to equipment that is fitted with a water recycling unit and a spray nozzle using no more than 3.5 gallons of water per minute and employing a working trigger shut-off with a protective weep mechanism. Use of water to wash buildings with a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle is allowed;

- c. Use of water to control dust is prohibited, unless there is a demonstrated need to do so for reasons of public health and safety, or as part of an approved construction plan.

**(3) STAGE 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

A. Supply Management Measures:

1. The City of Dripping Springs will aggressively reduce system water loss by measures such as fixing leaks, replacing old meters, and recycling line flush water, as appropriate for the utility system.
2. The City of Dripping Springs will actively communicate drought-related issues, including the current and projected water supply conditions, water supply restrictions and the need to conserve to its retail customers.
3. In addition to measures implemented in the preceding stages of the plan, The City of Dripping Springs will explore additional emergency water supply options.

B. Demand Management Measures: Under threat of penalty, all retail customers are required to further reduce non-essential water uses as follows. All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3, with the following modifications and additions.

1. Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:

Irrigation of ornamental landscaped areas is limited to the following restrictions:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems, except for drip irrigation, shall be limited to a no more than a ONCE weekly watering schedule as determined by the City of Dripping Springs.
- b. Outdoor watering hours for spray irrigation will be limited to **six hours** a day, before 10 a.m and after 7 p.m. on designated days as determined by the City of Dripping Springs (see recommended schedule in Appendix A). This prohibition does not apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:
  - i. a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off device ; or
  - ii. a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five gallons or less.
- c. New Landscapes may only be installed if
  - i. a 30 day watering schedule variance has been applied for and accepted
  - ii. no more than 50% of the irrigated landscaped area is water conserving natural turf
  - iii. only drought tolerant or native plants are installed
  - iv. drip irrigation with an automatic timer is installed in all beds
- d. Revegetation of disturbed areas due to construction is allowed, if required by local, state or federal regulations. A temporary watering variance must be granted by the City of Dripping Springs.

2. 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 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 7 p.m. and 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 can be washed at any time at a commercial car wash facility or commercial service station that recycles its water. 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.

3. Pools:

Installation of swimming pools is prohibited except when equipped with an automatic pool cover. Public/community swimming pools may be exempt from this prohibition to maintain safe levels of water quality for human contact.

4. Outside Water Features:

- a) Operation of outside water features except for ornamental fountains with a 4 inch emission or fall of water<sup>2</sup> that are recirculating, is prohibited, except where 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).
- b) Operation of residential aesthetic or recreational devices, such as water slides, is prohibited.
- c) Operation of outdoor misting systems at a commercial facility is prohibited except between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

5. 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 and meet the LCRA Highland Lakes Ordinance or other applicable non-point source pollution regulation. The City of Dripping Springs may request specific design documentation regarding a pond and the intended purpose.

6. Golf Course:

Golf courses receiving any amount of treated water from a City of Dripping Springs utility must either develop a drought contingency plan in accordance with the City of Dripping Springs Drought Contingency Plan and will implement its Stage 3 mandatory restrictions in conjunction with the water provider or adopt the LCRA sample golf course drought contingency plan.

7. 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.

8. Recreational areas (includes municipal parks and common areas):

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted from the City of Austin's 2012 Drought Contingency Plan update, which went through an extensive public input process. This measure was proposed by the fountain industry through that process.

Irrigation of recreational areas with potable water must follow the 6 hour weekly irrigation schedule outlined in section B1 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.

9. Athletic fields

The City of Dripping Springs must require a variance for irrigation of athletic fields if irrigation falls outside of the normal watering schedule. Fields should only be irrigated that are being actively used for organized sports practice, competition, or exhibition events when the irrigation 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.

10. Water Waste

The following additional non-essential uses of water are prohibited at all times during periods in which restrictions have gone into effect

- a) Pressure washing is prohibited but variances may be granted by the City of Dripping Springs on the designated watering day for health and safety purposes only. Pressure washing equipment must be fitted with a spray nozzle that does not use more than 3.5 gallons of water per minute and has a trigger shut-off.

**(4) STAGE 4 – Critical Water Shortage Conditions**

Under threat of penalty for violation, all retail customers are required to reduce nonessential water uses during an emergency. All requirements of Stages 1 through 3 are also in effect during stage 4, with the following modifications and additions:

1. Irrigation of ornamental landscaped areas with hose end sprinklers and automatic irrigation, except drip irrigation, is prohibited.
2. Irrigation is allowed with a hand-held hose with a working on/off nozzle, bucket, or drip irrigation only between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. and 10 p.m one day per week on the designated outdoor water use day as determined by the City of Dripping Springs.
3. New landscapes irrigated with spray irrigation are prohibited. New irrigated turf grass is prohibited. The City of Dripping Springs may issue new landscape variances for planting beds installed with drought tolerant or native plants specified in the Grown Green Plant Guide as having low or very low water needs (<http://austintexas.gov/department/grow-green/plant-guide>) and irrigated with point source drip irrigation or hand-held hose.
4. Use of water to operate outside water features, including fountains, outdoor misting

systems, and splash pads is prohibited.

5. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited, except as required for public health and safety purposes. Commercial car washing facilities may operate for health and safety purposes only except facilities which recycle water.
6. Golf courses receiving any amount of treated water from a City of Dripping Springs utility must either develop a drought contingency plan in accordance with the City of Dripping Springs Drought Contingency Plan and will implement its Stage 4 mandatory restrictions in conjunction with the water provider or adopt the LCRA sample golf course drought contingency plan.
7. The filling or replenishing of water to single-family residential swimming pools is only allowed if the pool is covered with a pool cover when not in use.
8. Public/community swimming pools are allowed to fill or replenish water in order to maintain safe levels of water quality for human contact.

*Upon declaration of Stage 4 - Emergency Water Conditions, water use restrictions outlined in Stage 3 Critical Response Measures shall immediately apply.*

#### **(5) STAGE 5 – Emergency Water Shortage Conditions**

Under threat of penalty for violation, all retail customers are required to reduce nonessential water uses during an emergency. All requirements of Stages 1 through 4 are also in effect during Stage 5, with the following modifications and additions:

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas is prohibited.
2. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited. This activity is only 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.
3. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare only.
4. 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.

*Upon declaration of Stage 4 - Emergency Water Conditions, water use restrictions outlined in Stage 4 Emergency Response Measures shall immediately apply.*



### **8.3 Wholesale Treated Customers**

All the City of Dripping Springs wholesale treated water customers are required to develop and formally adopt drought contingency plans for their own systems in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Sections 288.20 and 288.22. The water supply triggers and target reduction goals must be consistent with the LCRA DCP. In addition, the measures of this plan must be at least as stringent as the drought response measures required by the City of Dripping Springs for its retail customers. Wholesale treated water customers must include in their wholesale water supply contracts the requirement that each successive wholesale customer develop and formally adopt a drought contingency plan, consistent with the LCRA DCP.

**(1) STAGE 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions (Voluntary Measures)**

The City of Dripping Springs will contact wholesale treated water customers to discuss supply and demand conditions. The City of Dripping Springs will provide a limited supply of consumer information and materials on water conservation measures and practices to wholesale customers.

**(2) STAGE 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

The City of Dripping Springs will keep wholesale treated water customers informed about demand and current and projected water supply conditions. The City of Dripping Springs will initiate discussions with wholesale treated water customers about potential curtailment and the implementation of mandatory measures to reduce all non-essential water uses.

**(3) STAGE 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)**

The City of Dripping Springs will contact its wholesale treated water customers to initiate mandatory measures to control water demand and to ensure capacity for emergency response requirements. Mandatory measures will include the curtailment of nonessential water uses in accordance with the wholesale treated water customer's own drought contingency plan.

In addition, if the Stage 3 triggering criteria is based on a water supply shortage, LCRA 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 LCRA Chief Operations Officer and may be adjusted as conditions warrant.

**(4) STAGE 4 - Emergency Water Conditions**

All requirements of Stage 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4. Additional measures may be added as needed.

## 9.0 Enforcement

### 9.1 Enforcement Provisions

The following enforcement provisions shall apply to all the City of Dripping Springs water customers:

- Appendix B – Enforcement Provisions for Municipalities*
- Appendix C – Enforcement Provisions for Water Districts*
- Appendix D – Enforcement Provisions for Water Supply Corporations and Investor-Owned Utilities*

### 9.2 Variances

- (1) The City of Dripping Springs staff may grant variances:
  - A. Temporary watering schedule variances are allowed for new landscapes that use drought resistant landscaping or water conserving natural turf. Temporary watering schedule variances are also allowed for revegetation of disturbed areas due to construction, or if required by local, state or federal regulations. Temporary watering schedule variances shall include the following limitations:
    - A 30 day temporary watering schedule must be applied for and issued before the irrigation may begin
    - Days 1 thru 10 automatic irrigation or hose end sprinklers are allowed every day except between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
    - Days 11-20 automatic irrigation or hose end sprinklers are allowed every other day except between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
    - Days 21-30 automatic irrigation or hose end sprinklers are allowed every third day except between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
    - Day 31 must return back to the watering schedule as defined in Appendix A
    - Hand watering is allowed anytime with a hose equipped with a positive shut off nozzle
  - B. 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
  - C. Allowing the use of alternative water sources (i.e., ground water, reclaimed wastewater) that do not increase demand on potable water sources for outdoor use. Variance requests may be submitted to staff and need not meet the requirements of subsection below.
- (2) The general manager, or his 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:
  - A. Compliance with this plan cannot be accomplished during the duration of the time the plan is in effect; or

- B. Alternative methods can be implemented that will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.
- (3) Persons requesting a variance from the provisions of this plan shall file a petition for variance with the City of Dripping Springs water utility system any time the plan or a particular drought response stage is in effect. The general manager or his designee will review petitions for variances. The petitions shall include the following:
- Name and address of the petitioner
  - Purpose of water use
  - Specific provision of the plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
  - 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
  - Description of the relief requested
  - Period of time for which the variance is sought
  - 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
  - Other pertinent information
- (4) Variances granted by a City of Dripping Springs water utility system shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the general manager, or his designee:
- A. Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- B. Variances granted shall expire when the plan, or its requirements, is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.
- (5) No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise excuse any violation occurring before the variance was issued.

### **9.3 Plan Updates**

The plan will be reviewed and updated as needed to meet both TCEQ and LCRA drought contingency plan rules.

## 10 Appendices

### Appendix A – Mandatory Watering Schedules

#### **Permanent mandatory watering schedule**

The City of Dripping Springs Water System

Irrigate outdoors using an in-ground irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler no more than **TWICE per week** and only during scheduled days and times as indicated below:

#### **Residential**

Odd number addresses: Wednesdays and Saturdays

Even number addresses: Thursdays and Sundays

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

Tuesdays and Fridays

#### **Watering Hours:**

Midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> mandatory watering schedule (750,000 AF combined storage)**

The City of Dripping Springs Water System

Irrigate outdoors using an in-ground irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler no more than **ONCE per week** for **15 hours** only during scheduled days and times as indicated below:

#### **Residential- automatic irrigation systems**

Odd number addresses: Wednesdays

Even number addresses: Thursdays

#### **Residential- hose end irrigation systems**

Odd number addresses: Saturdays

Even number addresses: Sundays

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

Even number addresses: Tuesdays

Odd number addresses: Fridays

**Public Schools-** Mondays

#### **Watering Hours:**

Hose end irrigation systems: Midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight

Automatic irrigation systems: Midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight

### **3<sup>rd</sup> mandatory watering schedule (600,000 AF combined storage)**

The City of Dripping Springs Water System

Irrigate outdoors using an in-ground irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler no more than **ONCE per week** for **6 hours** only during scheduled days and times as indicated below:

#### **Residential- automatic irrigation systems**

Odd number addresses: Wednesdays

Even number addresses: Thursdays

#### **Residential- hose end irrigation systems**

Odd number addresses: Saturdays

Even number addresses: Sundays

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

Even number addresses: Tuesdays

Odd number addresses: Fridays

**Public Schools-** Mondays

#### **Watering Hours:**

Hose end irrigation systems: 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Automatic irrigation systems: Midnight to 6 a.m.

## **Appendix B – Enforcement Provisions for Municipalities**

### **Enforcement for Retail Customers**

The following enforcement provisions shall apply to all the City of Dripping Springs retail water customers:

- (1) No person shall knowingly or intentionally use or allow the use of water from a City of Dripping Springs water utility system for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, 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.
- (2) Any person who violates this plan shall be subject to the following fines, penalties and/or conditions of service:
  - A. 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. Fines and restrictions on service that may result from additional violations;
  - B. Following the second documented violation, the violator shall:
    1. Be criminally responsible for the violation of this Plan, punishable by a fine of \$250; and
    2. Be subject to a civil penalty of \$500.
  - C. Following the third documented violation, the violator shall:
    1. Be criminally responsible for the violation of this Plan, punishable by a fine of \$500; and
    2. Be subject to a civil penalty of \$1000.
  - D. Following the fourth documented violation, the City of Dripping Springs shall, upon due notice to the customer, 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 \$100, 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 City of Dripping Springs so that the same action shall not be repeated while the plan is in effect. The City of Dripping Springs may apply the deposit to any surcharges or penalties subsequently assessed under this plan against a customer. The deposit, if any, shall be returned to the customer at the time of the customer's voluntary disconnection from the utility system.
- (3) 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 City of Dripping Springs, 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 did not commit the violation. See enforcement process diagram in *Appendix E - Drought Response Retail Enforcement Process for Municipalities*.

- (4) The designated manager or official of the City of Dripping Springs shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this Plan.
- (5) The municipal court shall have the power to issue to the designated manager or official of the City of Dripping Springs administrative search warrants, or other process allowed by law, where necessary to aid in enforcing this Plan.
- (6) Judicial enforcement of fines and penalties issued pursuant to this Plan may be sought through a municipal court, district court or small claims court having jurisdiction over the matter.
- (7) Compliance with this Plan also may be sought through injunctive relief in state district court.

**Enforcement for Wholesale Customers**

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

In addition, wholesale treated water customers who fail to comply with the drought contingency measures in the plan may be subject to the following civil penalties, in addition to any other remedies available to the City of Dripping Springs by law or under the terms of the wholesale water contracts:

**Penalties for wholesale treated water customers:**

|                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| First documented violation:  | <u>Written notice of violation</u> |
| Second documented violation: | Penalty fee up to \$5,000          |
| Third documented violation:  | Penalty fee up to \$10,000         |

**Legal Authority applicable to Municipalities in Regard to Drought Contingency Plan Enforcement**

- Texas Local Government Code sec. 552.001
- Texas Local Government Code sec. 54.00 1
- Texas Local Government Code sec. 54.005
- Texas Local Government Code sec. 54.012 - 54.017
- Texas Government Code sec. 29.003

## **Appendix C – Enforcement Provisions for Water Districts**

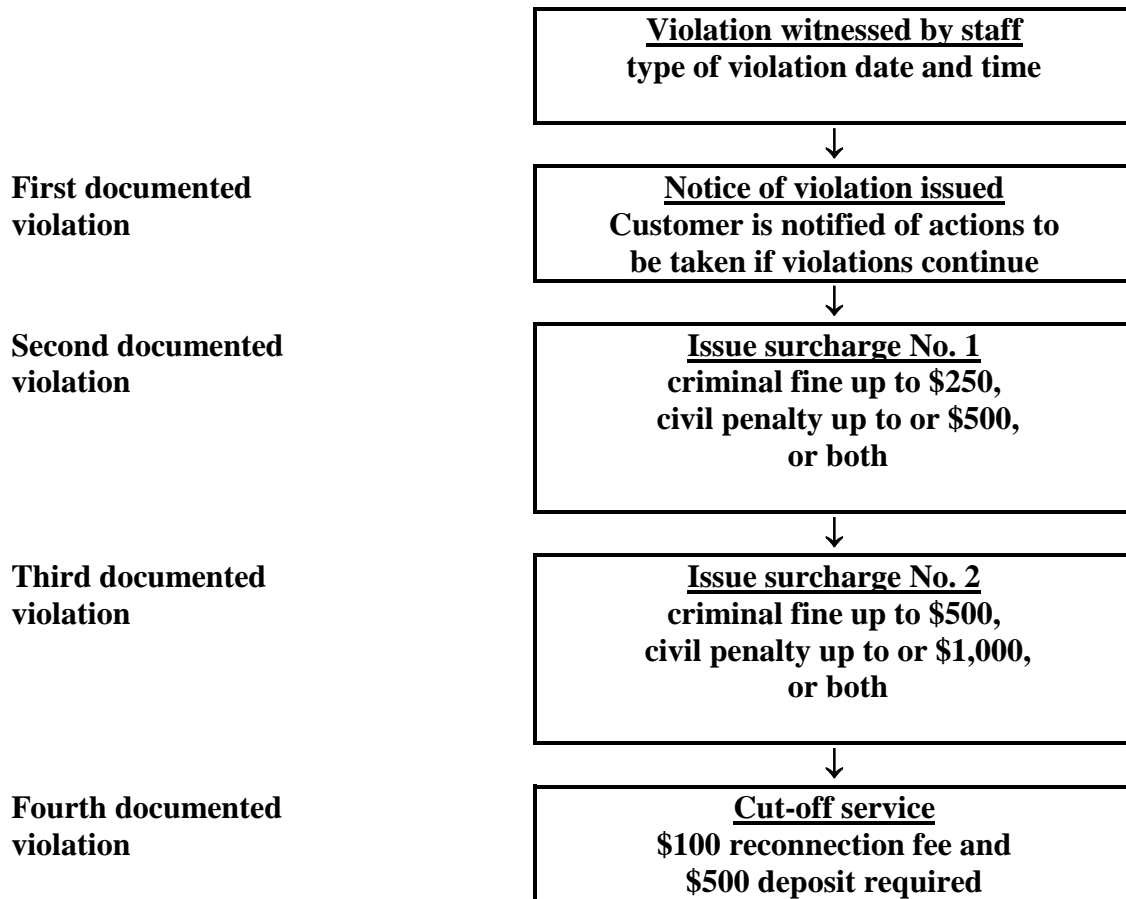
N/A



**Appendix D – Enforcement Provisions for Water Supply Corporations and Investor-Owned Utilities**

N/A

**Appendix E – Drought Response Retail Enforcement Process for Municipalities**



**Appendix F – Drought Response Retail Enforcement Process for Water Districts and Investor-Owned Utilities**

N/A

**Appendix G – Example Authorization to Implement and Approve Drought Contingency Plans**

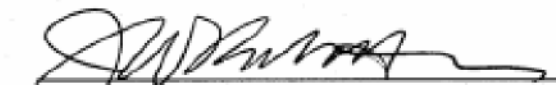
STATE OF TEXAS       §  
  §  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS   §

I, John W. Rubottom, hereby certify that I am the General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), a conservation and reclamation district, duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the public laws of the State of Texas.

I further certify that the Board of Directors of LCRA, on March 25, 2009, in a meeting posted properly in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and with a quorum present and voting, unanimously authorized the general manager and his staff to prepare and submit water conservation and drought contingency plans to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that are consistent with direction provided by the Board, as described in LCRA Board Agenda Item 8, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto.

TO CERTIFY WHICH, witness my hand and official seal this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.



  
John W. Rubottom, General Counsel  
and Assistant Secretary of the  
LCRA Board of Directors