

2025 – 2026 Drought Contingency Plan Amendments

- High-Level Overview

- August 28, 2025



Canyon Lake, 2023
San Antonio Report

Content

- Project Intent and Deliverables
- Peer Utility Practices
- Project Proposals
- Current Timeline and Milestones
- Discussion



Landa Park Wading Pool, May 2025
KENS 5 San Antonio

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Project Intent and Deliverables

- **Project Intent**

- Provide clear, easy-to-understand drought guidance for customers.
- Alignment with neighboring utilities.
- Balance customer lifestyles with drought management and empower voluntary conservation.
- Protect essential water users.
- Prepare for formal DCP revision in 2029

- **Deliverables**

- Revised Trigger Level and Trigger Events
- Updated Drought Surcharge
- Updates to Primary Calls to Action for Drought Stages 0-5



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NBU NEW BRAUNFELS
UTILITIES

Neighboring Utility Practices

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Drought Stage Label Inconsistencies



- Non-Drought
- Stage I-V (Roman Numerals)

• Edwards Aquifer Authority

- Stable
- Stage 1-5 (Standard Numbers)

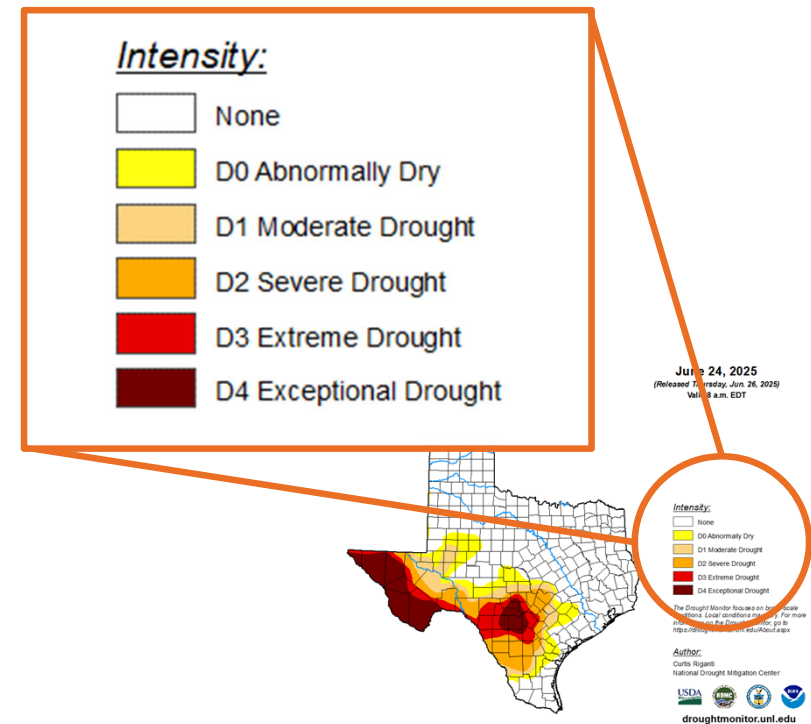
• SAWS Austin Water, San Marcos, Buda, Texas Water

- Year-Round
- Stage 1-4 (Standard Numbers)
- *Austin Water – Emergency Stage 5*

• Kyle

- Water Conservation Period
- Alarm Stage Drought
- Critical Stage Drought
- Exceptional Stage Drought
- Emergency Stage Drought

• US Drought Monitor



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Peer Utility Practices – Watering Frequency

	Non-drought	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
	2x Weekly	1x Weekly		1x Bi-Weekly	No Guidance	
Austin Water	1x Weekly					Prohibited
SAWS	Any Day	1x Weekly			1x Bi-Weekly	No Guidance
San Marcos	No Guidance	2x Weekly	1x Weekly	1x Bi-Weekly	No Guidance	
Buda	2x Weekly		1x Weekly		1x Bi-Weekly	No Guidance
Kyle	Any Day	2x Weekly	1x Weekly	1x Bi-Weekly		Prohibited
Texas Water	2x Weekly	1x Weekly	1x Bi-Weekly		Prohibited	No Guidance

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Project Proposals

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Trigger Levels and Events – Adding Stage 4 & 5

Proposed Language – Green Indicates Changes

Ordinance Sec. 130-167. - Sec. 130-224 "Trigger levels" for implementation and termination of water use reduction measures, stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 to meet reduction measures as NBU deems necessary to meet regulatory requirements.

Factor Considered	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Edwards Aquifer J17 Monitoring Well	660 msl	650 msl	640 msl	630 msl	625 msl
Comal River Spring Flow	225 cfs	200 cfs	150 cfs	100 cfs	45 cfs
NBU Reduction Targets	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

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Trigger Levels and Events – Expanding Flexibility

Proposed Language (Summarized) – Green Indicates Additions

Ordinance Sec. 130-226. Implementation of additional water use reduction measures , ("aquifer risk"). Additional considerations for implementation and termination of water use reduction measures, stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

- (a) Drought Conditions: Extra restrictions may be imposed during severe drought based on broader conditions, not just trigger levels.
- (b) Water Quality: If water quality is unsafe, mandatory reductions may be enforced with the mayor's approval.
- (c) Water Supply Availability: Supply levels and regional conditions may guide reduction measures.
- (d) Infrastructure Issues: Emergency restrictions may apply if infrastructure failures threaten supply.
- (e) Other Considerations: Additional restrictions may be implemented at any time due to general seasonal or weather concerns.

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Drought Surcharge – First Update Since 2014

Proposed Language (Summarized) – Green Indicates Changes

Ordinance Sec. 130-167. - Water rates. (m) Residential and landscape irrigation drought surcharges.

- The new proposal realigns surcharge with current rate structure and uses escalating amounts on higher water consumption during drought stages to discourage excessive use while safeguarding essential residential and irrigation needs.

Current Structure (est. 2014)

Stage	Domestic	Irrigation	Surcharge
	Threshold	Threshold	
3	15,000	7,500	\$1.00
4	15,000	7,500	\$2.00
5	N/A	N/A	N/A

Proposed Structure (Raftelis, June 2025)

Stage	Domestic	Irrigation	Surcharge
	Threshold	Threshold	
3	12,000	6,000	TBD (est. \$3 to \$6)
4	12,000	6,000	TBD (est. \$3 to \$6)
5	6,000	1	TBD (est. \$3 to \$6)

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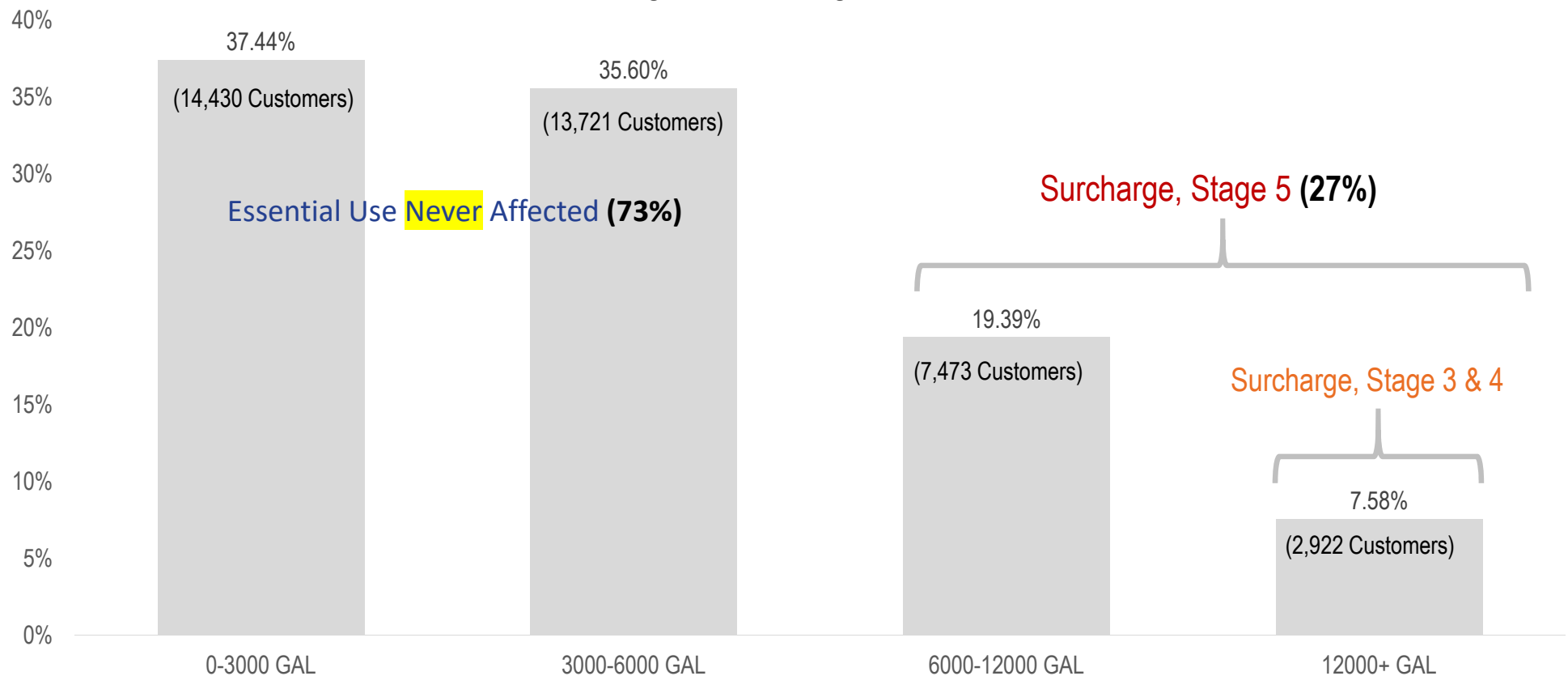
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Surcharge Structure – Residential Domestic

Domestic Usage Bracket Averages, Annual 2022-2024



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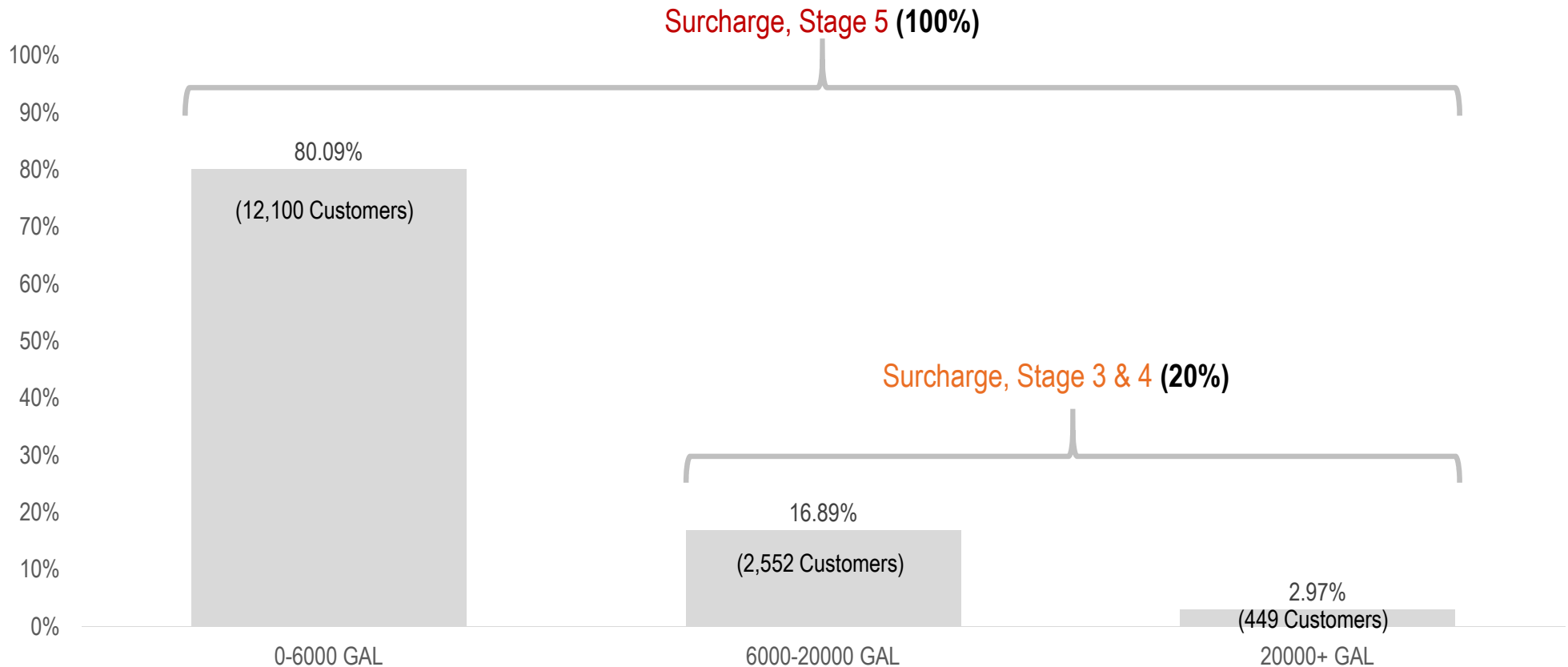
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Surcharge Structure – Residential Irrigation

Irrigation Usage Bracket Averages, Annual 2022-2024



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Primary Changes to Customer Response

- **Watering Frequency**

- Change – moving every-other-week watering schedule into escalated stages 4-5 (Section – 130-225).

- **Variances – Landscape Area Remainder in Stages 3-5**

- Change – New landscapes may use no more than 50% turf, must follow proper horticultural practices (like mulch and zonal irrigation), and the remaining area must be permanent, non-irrigated, erosion-preventing materials—not artificial turf. (Section – 130-228).
- The CoNB's *Land Development Ordinance (LDO)* is proposing reducing new construction turf limitations to no more than 50% for residential and 25% for commercial. The proposed **DCP changes** will account for the *LDO's upcoming changes* and will not conflict. Reference table below for logistics for Stages 3-5.

Condition	Baseline Guidance	Additional Guidance (if applicable)
Stage 0 (LDO)	50% Turfgrass	50% Approved Ground Cover
Stage 1 (LDO)	50% Turfgrass	50% Approved Ground Cover
Stage 2 (LDO)	50% Turfgrass	50% Approved Ground Cover
Stage 3	50% Turfgrass	50% Permanent, Non-Irrigated, Erosion Preventing Materials to Exclude Artificial Turf
Stage 4 (Proposed)	25% Turfgrass	75% Permanent, Non-Irrigated, Erosion Preventing Materials to Exclude Artificial Turf
Stage 5 (Proposed)	0% Turfgrass	100% Permanent, Non-Irrigated, Erosion Preventing Materials to Exclude Artificial Turf

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Stage 4 – Flexible Strategy Options

Focus	Stage 4	
Landscape Watering	(-) Added Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every-other-week watering schedule for spray-type irrigation
	(+) Remaining Customer Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering by hand, soaker, or drip still allowed any day, during watering times
New Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installations to allow no more than 25% turfgrass 	
Pressure Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry over from Stage 3 (public health, safety, prep for construction allowed) 	
Swimming Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry over from Stage 3 (no restrictions on construction) 	
Vehicle Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of at-home vehicle washing 	

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Stage 5 – Flexible Strategy Options

Focus	Stage 5 (Worst Case Scenario)	
Landscape Watering	Added Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of spray-type irrigation
	Remaining Customer Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering landscape by hand, soaker, or drip restricted to assigned day, once-per-week, during watering times Watering trees by hand, soaker, or drip allowed for up to two hours on any day, during watering times, without waste
New Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of new turfgrass installations 	
Pressure Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of all pressure washing 	
Swimming Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of the construction of new pools 	
Vehicle Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of commercial vehicle washing facility operations 	

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Current Timeline and Milestones

Month	Event
August 2025	Preview presentation for NBU Board
September 2025	CAP workshop – Education on the Drought Contingency Plan
October 2025	CAP workshop – Proposed Changes
December 2025	CAP workshop – Feedback
January 2026	Formal presentation for NBU Board (Presentation for Future Action)
February 2026	Formal presentation for NBU Board (Action Item)
March 2026	Formal presentation for CoNB City Council (x2)
April 2026	Implementation of revised DCP, Communications Campaign Launch Begin holistic revision of DCP (12-24 months – deadline to TCEQ May 2029)

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Questions?

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