



Montgomery County WC&ID #1

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DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

2021



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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Water Availability Division

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Drought Contingency Plan for a Retail Public Water Supplier

This form is provided as a model of a drought contingency plan for a retail public water supplier. If you need assistance in completing this form or in developing your plan, please contact the Conservation Staff of the Resource Protection Team in the Water Availability Division at (512) 239-4691.

Drought Contingency Plans must be formally adopted by the governing body of the water provider and documentation of adoption must be submitted with the plan. For municipal water systems, adoption would be by the city council as an ordinance. For other types of publicly-owned water systems (example: utility districts), plan adoption would be by resolution of the entity's board of directors adopting the plan as administrative rules. For private investor-owned utilities, the drought contingency plan is to be incorporated into the utility's rate tariff. Each water supplier shall provide documentation of the formal adoption of their drought contingency plan.

Introduction

In 1996 severe drought conditions affected every region of the state. Water systems throughout the state were forced to cope with water shortages or system capacity problems. In response to the 1996 drought, the 75th Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1, which directed the state to take a regional approach to water planning. One of the provisions of the legislation required the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to adopt rules requiring wholesale and retail public water suppliers to develop water conservation and drought contingency plans.

Water conservation and drought contingency plans work together to help Texans manage short-term and long-term water shortages. The goal of a water conservation plan is to help achieve lasting, and long-term improvements in water use efficiencies using strategies to reduce the amount of water withdrawn from a particular source, and to ensure the water withdrawn is used in an efficient manner. Drought contingency plans are short-term in nature, using temporary supply and demand management measures in response to temporary and potentially recurring water shortages and other emergencies. Montgomery County WCID# 1 (The District) as a public water supplier is required to submit a water conservation and drought contingency plan to the TCEQ and Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

In 2001, the Texas Legislature created the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) to conserve, protect, and enhance the groundwater resources of Montgomery County. Scientific studies conducted by the LSGCD confirmed that the demand for groundwater in many places within the county was exceeding what the aquifers could sustainably yield, and water levels were declining. Modeling of future population and water demand showed that projected impacts of continued reliance on groundwater would soon create significant water-level declines and severe problems for water suppliers in Montgomery County. As a result of this study, the LSGCD has developed groundwater reduction goals for users in Montgomery County. The district is committed to meeting these goals and has joined in a groundwater reduction plan with the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA), and other high volume users to reduce the counties overall reliance on groundwater. At some point in the future the district will be converting from primarily groundwater to more surface water use.

The District has chosen to use an escalating block rate structure along with other conservation efforts to achieve long-term water conservation. Leak detection kits for toilets and water conservation literature are available by request at the districts office. District staff will when becoming aware of excessively high consumption of water by a residential customer attempt to contact such customer with information regarding measures that can be implemented to reduce consumption and thereby achieve more efficient use of the potable water supplied by the district.

Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, Montgomery County WCID 1 hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered to be non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section X of this Plan.

Section II: Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by Montgomery County WCID 1 by means of a scheduled meeting and provided public notice of that meeting to accept input on the Plan.

Section III: Public Education

Montgomery County WCID 1 will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of utility bill inserts or press releases.

Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of Montgomery County WCID 1 is located within GMA 14 and Montgomery County WCID 1 has provided a copy of this Plan to the San Jacinto River Authority, the TCEQ and the Lonestar Conservation District.

Section V: Authorization

The General Manager or his/her designee 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 General Manager or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

Section VI: Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the Montgomery County WCID 1. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

Section VII: Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by Montgomery County WCID 1.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than fire fighting.

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

Section VIII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The General Manager or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified "triggers" are reached.

Stage 1 Triggers -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions

1. Mild Drought Stage 1: Voluntary reduction.

- a. Average daily water uses reaches 60% of system capacity for three consecutive days
- b. Consideration will be given to weather conditions, time of year and customer complaints of low water pressure

- c. Lake Conroe is below 199 feet for seven consecutive days.

Termination of Stage 1:

- a. Lake Conroe is above 199 feet.
- b. Average daily water usage is below 60 percent of system capacity.

2. Moderate Drought Stage 2:

- a. Average daily water use reaches 75% of system capacity for three consecutive days
- b. Net Storage in water storage is continually decreasing on a daily basis and falls below 60% of the district's water storage capacity for 48 hours (630,000 gallons)
- c. Water pressure reaches 35 psi in the distribution system as measured by the pressure gauges in the system (1868400 GPO)
- d. Lake Conroe is below 197 feet for seven consecutive days.

Termination of Stage 2:

- a. Lake Conroe is above 197 feet for seven days.

*Daily water use is below 75 percent of system capacity. System storage capacity is above 60 percent for 24 hours. Monitoring of water pressure and weather forecasts indicate pre stage 2 conditions exist.

3. Severe Drought Stage 3:

- a. The imminent or actual failure of a major component of the system which could cause immediate health or safety hazard.
- b. Water demand is exceeding approximately 75% of system capacity for three consecutive days.
- c. Failure of either of the districts existing 4 wells.
- d. The available water supplies are so low that the pumps cannot pump the daily water demand
- e. Lake Conroe is below an elevation of 190 feet.

Termination of Stage 3:

- a. Lake Conroe is above 190 feet for seven consecutive days.
- b. Monitoring of water demand and weather forecast indicate conditions no longer exist that initiated implementation.

The district may initiate any stage of the drought contingency plan at the request of state or local governmental agencies at the General Manager's discretion at any time even if the above triggers have not been met.

Notification from the SJRA GRP division that implementation of a drought stage strategy is required will initiate the specified strategy by rules agreed to with the districts membership in the GRP.

Emergency Water Demand

Emergency Water Demand Management Measures: The following Emergency Water Demand Management measures will be established as the districts rules and regulations in which water

can be partially or totally restricted. The Districts General Manager will be authorized to implement these measures as he deems appropriate in the absence of Board of Directors action on the contrary.

- I. Step I curtailment -The General Manager can restrict the use of water for outdoor irrigation, watering of lawns, shrubs and washing automobiles to certain areas of the district for certain days and hours. Said restrictions will remain in effect until the General Manager lifts the restrictions. More specifically stated the General Manager may:

- A. Inform the public through the news media, or direct mailing that a trigger condition has been reached, and that they should look for ways to voluntarily reduce water use. Specific steps which can be taken will be provided through the News Media or Mailing, as well as a sign will be posted at the entrance to the district at Sawdust Road and Glen Loch Drive and other locations the district deems appropriate.

- B. Notify major water users of the situation and request voluntary water use reductions.

- C. In the event of Moderate Drought Conditions the following mandatory lawn watering schedule may be implemented

- I. Customers in the Subdivisions of Timber Lakes Sections 3A, 3B, and Spring Acres; Section 1&2 and Grogans Mill 66 may only water on Mondays.
- II. Customers in the Subdivision of Timber lakes Section 1, Timber Ridge 3, Sierra Pines and Sawdust Road may only water on Tuesdays.
- III. Customers in the Subdivisions of Timber Lakes Section 2, and Woodmill Creek may only water on Wednesdays.
- IV. Customers in the Subdivision of Timber Ridge Section 1&2 may on only water on Thursday.
- V. Customers in the Subdivisions of Timber Ridge 3 and Timber Woods may only water on Friday.
- VI. Watering may only occur between 5-9 am and 7-10 pm

- D. Car washing, window washing, and pavement washing are prohibited except when a bucket is used with hand held hose rinse.

- E. During winter months, customers are requested to insulate pipes or turn water off and drain pipes. Dripping or running water to prevent freezing is not allowed as it is not a beneficial use of water.

- F. The District will begin monitoring water pressure in the distribution system and water levels in the storage tanks.

- G. Swimming pools may not be refilled if drained service during Stage 2 or 3 Drought. If Stage 1 drought condition exist, the pool may be filled only during designated times approved by the District Operator. It is recommended no service to be performed that requires the pool to be drained when drought conditions exist. Water may be added to the pool to replace water lost to evaporation but back flushing filters is strongly discouraged and should only be done when head loss reaches 60 percent.

- H. The Water District will cease regular flushing of the water system but may flush for special needs.

- I. The Fire Department will cease training exercises that require use of water from the districts distribution system. The use of water for firefighting will not be affected by any

provision of this order, however, it is suggested that the fire department strive not to lower the distribution system pressure below 30 PSI if possible. Reduction of pressure below 30 PSI could cause the districts pumps to AIR LOCK, whereby causing a complete loss of water to fight fires.

2. Step II Curtailment would be one where the General Manager will ban the use of water totally for outdoor irrigation, lawns, washing driveways and automobiles and is warranted by severe Drought Conditions. Said restrictions will remain in effect until the general manager lifts the ban. More specifically stated as follows :
 - A. Continue implementation of all relevant actions in Step I curtailment.
 - B. All outside uses of water are prohibited.
 - C. The following public water uses not essential for public health or safety is prohibited. Water line flushing except where health concerns are involved.
 - D. Make Application to the Woodlands and San Jacinto River Authority for an emergency interconnect.
 - E. Sensitive vegetation may be hand watered with a bucket using bath or wash water without violating this order and is encouraged year round as a good conservation measure.
3. Curtailments will be in effect upon the General Manager giving notice of curtailment to the customers within the District; or posting of some form of notice of curtailment as listed above in step 1.
4. Curtailments will be terminated upon the General Manager giving notice of termination.
5. The General Manager can amend, add, or delete any of these Rules and regulations and shall notify the Board of Directors at its regular meeting of said amendments, additions or deletions.
6. Upon the first violation of this order, a written warning will be delivered to the customers service address. The second violation will carry a fine of \$100.00. A third Violation will carry a fine of \$250.00 and the service will be terminated for a minimum of twenty-four (24) Hours. Continued Violations of this order could result in the instillation of a permanent orifice placed in the customer's service line for the duration of the drought. Termination of service may occur when continued violations of this order become apparent and customer refuses to adhere to the requirements contained herein.
7. Water for pets or livestock will not be affected by this order. The District will have the sole discretion of what constitutes normal use.

Long Term Conservation Plan

The water district finds it is desirable to protect our finite water resources. With this goal in mind, the district has adopted the following block rate structure and incorporated it into this long term conservation plan.

WATER DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

Single Family Homes - During construction and after the initial occupancy receiving water and sanitary sewer service from the District shall be billed as follows:

First 6,000 gals.	\$16.83 (minimum)
7,000 to 10,000 gals.	\$2.78/1,000 gals.
11,000 to 19,000 gals.	\$2.88/1,000 gals.
20,000 to 29,000 gals.	\$2.98/1,000 gals.
30,000 to 39,000 gals.	\$3.08/1,000 gals.
40,000 to 49,000 gals.	\$3.58/1,000 gals.
50,000 to 59,000 gals.	\$4.08/1,000 gals.
60,000 to 69,000 gals.	\$4.33/1,000 gals.
70,000 to 79,000 gals.	\$4.58/1,000 gals.
80,000 to 89,000 gals.	\$4.83/1,000 gals.
90,000 gals. And thereafter	\$5.08 1,000

Senior Citizen Residential During construction and after the initial occupancy receiving water and sanitary sewer service from the District shall be billed as follows:

First 6,000 gals.	\$10.83 (minimum)
7,000 to 10,000 gals.	\$2.78/1,000 gals.
11,000 to 19,000 gals.	\$2.88/1,000 gals.
20,000 to 29,000 gals.	\$2.98/1,000 gals.
30,000 to 39,000 gals.	\$3.08/1,000 gals.
40,000 to 49,000 gals.	\$3.58/1,000 gals.
50,000 to 59,000 gals.	\$4.08/1,000 gals.
60,000 to 69,000 gals.	\$4.33/1,000 gals.
70,000 to 79,000 gals.	\$4.58/1,000 gals.
80,000 to 89,000 gals.	\$4.83/1,000 gals.
90,000 gals. And thereafter	\$5.08 1,000

Commercial

All non-residential customers of the District shall be billed on a per meter basis at the commercial rates set forth herein below. If customers served off of a single District meter are both commercial and residential, this commercial rate shall apply.

First 6,000 gals.	\$16.83 (minimum)
7,000 to 10,000 gals.	\$2.78/1,000 gals.
11,000 to 19,000 gals.	\$2.88/1,000 gals.
20,000 to 29,000 gals.	\$2.98/1,000 gals.
30,000 to 39,000 gals.	\$3.08/1,000 gals.
40,000 to 49,000 gals.	\$3.58/1,000 gals.
50,000 to 59,000 gals.	\$4.08/1,000 gals.
60,000 to 69,000 gals.	\$4.33/1,000 gals.
70,000 to 79,000 gals.	\$4.58/1,000 gals.
80,000 to 89,000 gals.	\$4.83/1,000 gals.
90,000 gals. And thereafter	\$5.08 1,000

Multi-Family Buildings

Single meter: Each multi-family building including a multi-family condominium building which is served by a single meter shall be billed for water at the same rate as a single family home except that a minimum of \$16.83/unit for 6,000 gallons per month shall apply, regardless of occupancy. Billing shall commence with the first full month after the water tap and/or meter to the District's system is made by its utility operator.

A Multiple meters: If a multi-family building is served by more than one meter. Then, water delivered through each meter shall be billed at the same rate as a single family home with a minimum of \$16.83/unit for 6,000 gallons for each living unit served through such meter "regardless of occupancy." Billing shall commence with the first full month after the water tap and/or meter to the District's system is made by its utility operator.

B. Interim Rates: If a multi-family building is under construction and not completed it will be billed at the District's regular single residential water and sewer rates when applicable until such time as the units are determined by the District to be ready for occupancy. Condominiums: In a residential condominium building, where each condominium unit is separately metered such condominium unit shall be billed as a Single Family Home.

C. Irrigation: Water provided exclusively for irrigation purposes shall be metered and billed at the rate of a single family home per meter less wastewater charge.

D. All Metered Customers: All metered water customers shall be billed a pass through fee from San Jacinto River Authority ("SJRA") to be effective July 1, 2012, of an additional charge equal to 110% of the pumpage fee rate charged the District by the SJRA for groundwater pumped by the District per one thousand gallons times the customer's monthly consumption of water measured in one thousand gallon increments. All meter customers shall be billed 130% monthly of the Pumpage fee imposed upon the District by the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District in addition to the normal monthly billing for water consumption and the foregoing SJRA related charges. Such additional charge is intended to offset charges imposed upon the District by the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and SJRA.

Universal Metering

All water customers of the district shall have their water consumption metered. Meters shall be tested and replaced as needed to assure the accuracy of the measuring device. The district will have meters tested anytime the measurement is suspect and when the device has recorded an aggregate volume of usage in excess of 1,000,000 gallons. Customers may request a meter test at any time. If the meter is tested and not within AWWA specifications the district will absorb the cost otherwise the customer will be charged

the cost of the test. The General Manager or Board of directors may waive this charge if circumstances warrant.

Leak Detection and Repair Program

The district will promptly repair any leak found in the distribution system which is located on district water mains or services. When apparent loss is found with no direct correlation to known leaks the district will attempt to locate the cause of this loss and affect repairs. When unusual Pumpage is detected at the water plant which is readily identifiable outside of the expected normal range district operators will begin a search of the system looking for possible line breaks. The district contains many miles of water main in easements that are no longer on roads open to the public, special attention will be given to these areas first. The district strongly supports and encourages the public's help in identifying system leaks. District staff and customers are encouraged to promptly report suspected leaks in the distribution system. When a leak is suspected in a customer's plumbing system the district will promptly notify said customer of the suspected leak. The district encourages customers to promptly repair leaks in their plumbing system. If the leak is readily identifiable outside the home or water is running in a manner that may damage property the district may, at the operator's discretion, terminate the service at the curb stop. The district will not be liable for damage caused by a leak in the customers plumbing. The customer's bill may be adjusted at the discretion of the District operator if the customer affects prompt repair and the water does not enter the sewage system.

In a case where the customer has been notified a leak exists in their plumbing and takes no action to address the problem. The district will terminate service at the district operator's discretion until the customer completes repairs to the customers plumbing. Customers will adhere to the districts plumbing code when affecting all repairs in their system. A copy of the districts plumbing code is available at the water districts office, or may be reviewed on the district's website.

Should customer fail to repair or correct a loss of water which is not for beneficial use after notification by the District within Forty Eight (48) hours of such notification, the water will be billed at the maximum rate charged by the district per thousand gallon registered by the meter until such repairs are completed. The district will record the meter reading at the time of notification. It is the customer's responsibility to notify the district upon completion of repairs at which time an inspection will be performed and the meter reading recorded. All water used between readings will be billed at the maximum rate. The district General Manager may waive this requirement if circumstances warrant. The customer may appeal the General Manager's decision to the board of Directors with written notice to the district office. An Item will be placed on the agenda of the next regular board meeting for consideration at which time customer may present cause to waive this requirement to the Board of Directors of the District.

Plumbing Code

The districts plumbing code is attached hereto as exhibit "1" In connection with the plumbing code and the district's rate order the district has caused the implementation of an inspection program designed to protect the purity of the district's potable water supply. The districts plumbing code encourages the use of water conserving plumbing fixtures and practices.

Education and Information

The district will promote this water conservation plan by making available in the districts office pamphlets that can be used to effect wise use of water inside and outside the home. These pamphlets may be ordered from the Texas Water Development Board, post office box 13231, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3231. The district will also provide toilet tank leak detection kits in the water district office which will be provided upon request at no charge to district customers. Customers wishing to acquire information on water conservation may also go to the following web sites.

Texas Water Development Board: www.twdb.state.tx.us The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District: www.lonestargcd.org Water IQ: wateriq.org
San Jacinto River Authority : www.sjra.net
Montgomery County WC&ID # 1: www.montgomerycountycwid1.com

Information and Education

Once trigger Conditions and emergency measures have been reached, the public will be informed of the conditions, and measures to be taken. The Process for notifying the public may include:

1. Posting the Notice of Drought Conditions at the districts office or on mobile signs at entrances to the district, Notification on webpage.
2. Notifying local Radio stations; and/ or News Papers.
3. Direct mailing to customers explaining the need to invoke the provisions of this emergency water demand management plan which will include steps to be taken to insure compliance with the plan.

Termination Notification

Termination of the Drought Measures will take place when the trigger Conditions which initiated the drought measures have subsided, and an emergency situation no longer exists. The general manager will inform the public of the termination of the drought Measures in the same manner that they were informed of the initiation of the drought measures through the contact methods available to the water district.

Variances

Variances may be granted under special circumstances where health or safety concerns warrant. Variances may be allowed by the general manager on a temporary or permanent basis and must be ratified by the district's Board of Directors at their next regular meeting. Variances must be in written form and signed by the general manager of the district. The written permit will contain the date, duration and reason for the variance. This permit must be received before any activities outside the parameters of this order are allowed.

Additional Triggering Events

1. Requirements for Initiation - To the extent that a stage of this plan is not otherwise triggered, then the appropriate stage, as determined by the District's Operator and Engineer, shall be triggered upon the District having received notice from San Jacinto River Authority's (the "Authority") GRP Division that restrictions under its drought contingency plan have been triggered. The District's operator shall invoke conservation conditions consistent with the conservation conditions implemented by the Authority until such time as the Authority discontinues the implementation of such conservation conditions.

2. Requirements for Termination - The appropriate stage enacted by an additional triggering event shall be rescinded when the District having received notice from SJRA's GRP Division that restrictions under its drought contingency plan have been lifted.