

## **Section H: Drought Contingency Plan**

### **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, the Gastonia-Scurry SUD hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses related to 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 conditions are deemed to constitute a waste which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section IX of this Plan.

### **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the Gastonia-Scurry SUD by means of mail in survey.

### **Section III: Public Education**

The Gastonia-Scurry SUD 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 mail in surveys.

### **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the Gastonia-Scurry SUD is located within the Region C and Gastonia-Scurry SUD has provided a copy of this Plan to the TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) and Region C.

### **Section V: Authorization**

The District 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 District 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 Gastonia-Scurry SUD. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

### **Sections 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 which is integral of 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 Gastonia-Scurry SUD.

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.

NTMWD: North Texas Municipal Water District

GPD: Gallons Per Day

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

The District 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. Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by means of mail and newspaper.

The triggering criteria described on following 4 ½ pages are based on data from 1998 drought.

**Drought Contingency Plan**

**a. Stage 1 Mild Conditions**

Trigger:

- The water level of the supply has fallen below specified elevation.
- Demand exceeds 90% of the amount that can be delivered to customers for seven consecutive days.
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system approaches delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate.
- Supply source becomes contaminated.
- Water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- Water demand is approaching the limit of the permitted supply.

Stage 1 can terminate when supply rises above specified levels or when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 1 no longer prevail.

Response Measure: Raise public awareness of the situation by mail and in the newspaper

Goal: There is no goal for reduction of water use. The District Manager can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary:

- Request voluntary reductions in water use by the public.
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use.
- Review the problems that caused the initiation of Stage 1.
- Intensify efforts on leak detection and repair.
- Ask customers to initiate voluntary landscape watering schedules.

**b. Stage 2 Moderate Condition**

Trigger:

- The water level of the supply has fallen below specified elevation.
- Demand exceeds 95% of the amount that can be delivered to customers for five consecutive days.
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system equals delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate.

- Supply source becomes contaminated.
- Water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- Water demand is approaching the limit of the permitted supply.

Stage 2 can terminate when supply rises above specified levels or when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 2 no longer prevail.

Response measure: Request voluntary reduction in non-essential water use by mail and newspaper and phone.

Goal: The goal for water use reduction under Stage 2, Moderate, is a two percent reduction of the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures. The District Manager can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary:

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stage 1.
- Initiate engineering studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Further accelerate public education efforts on ways to reduce water use.
- Encourage the public to wait until the current drought or emergency situation has passed before establishing new landscaping.

#### **Voluntary Water Use Restrictions**

Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Wednesdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0,2,4,6, or 8) and Thursdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1,3,5,7, or 9) and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.

#### **c. Stage 3 Severe Condition**

##### Trigger:

- The water level of the surface supply has fallen below specified levels.
- Demand exceeds 98% of the amount that can be delivered to customers for three consecutive days.
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system exceeds delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate.
- Supply source becomes contaminated.
- Water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- Water demand is approaching the limit of the permitted supply.

Requirements of Termination: Stage 3 can terminate when supply rises above specified levels or when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 3 no longer prevail.

Response Measure: Implement mandatory restrictions on non-essential water use such as lawn and irrigation to certain days and times.

Goal: The goal for water use reduction under Stage 3, Severe, is a reduction of five percent in the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency

measures. If circumstances warrant, the District Manager can set a goal for greater water use reduction.

Water Use Restrictions - Under threat of penalty for violation, the following water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

1. Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1 and 2.
2. Implement viable alternative water supply strategies.
3. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to twice per month : The FIRST Monday of each month begins the first week of the month and in turn starts the watering cycle: Week one of each month for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0,2,4,6 or 8), may water on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1,3,5,7 or 9), may water on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on designated watering days.  
(Exceptions: Foundations, and new plantings (first year) of trees and shrubs may be watered for up to 2 hours on any day by a hand-held hose or a soaker hose. Golf courses are prohibited from watering using treated water, except as needed to keep grass and tee boxes alive.
4. Prohibit washing or rinsing of vehicles by hose. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
5. Prohibit use of water to fill or refill any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited. Pools may add water to replace losses on designated watering days between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
6. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a re-circulation system.
7. Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, related activities or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the Gastonia-Scurry SUD.
8. All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to its patrons except when requested.
9. **The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:**
  - A. Wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - B. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - C. Use of water for dust control;
  - D. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and

- E. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).
10. Require customers (including indirect customers) to prohibit establishment of new landscaping.
  11. Discontinue city government water use for landscape irrigation, except as needed to prevent foundation damage.

**c (2) Enhanced Stage 3 Severe Condition**

1. Charge a 50% surcharge over the current rate in excess of 17,000 gallons

**Notice to business Owners**

All businesses, including those with a valid agricultural purpose are requested to contact Gastonia-Scurry Special Utility District IMMEDIATELY to register your business with us as such. Viable business needs at the location of the meter as demonstrated by any of the following: Tax ID or pertinent IRS schedule will be accepted. Outside watering for the business is prohibited. Businesses are not subject to the surcharges listed above however, if you violate the no watering rule, violators will be charged a 25% surcharge fee per incident cumulative of their total bill.

**d. Stage 4 Emergency Condition – Phase 1**

Trigger:

- The water level from the supply has fallen below the specified elevation.
- Demand exceeds the amount that can be delivered to customers.
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system seriously exceeds delivery capacity because the delivery capacity is inadequate.
- Supply source becomes contaminated.
- Water supply system unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- Water demand is approaching the limit of the permitted supply.

**Response Measure:** Implement ban on all non-essential water use and a water surcharge if needed for abusers.

**Goal:** The goal for water use reduction under Stage 4, Emergency, is a reduction of ten percent in the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures. If circumstances warrant, the District Manager can set a goal for greater water use reduction.

**Requirements of Termination:** Stage 4 can terminate when the surface supply is at the specified level or when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 4 no longer prevail.

The District Manager and or Board of Directors can order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary.

1. Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1, 2, and 3.
2. Implement viable alternative water supply strategies.
3. Require all member cities and customers (including indirect customers) to prohibit washing of vehicles except as necessary for health, sanitation, or safety reasons.
4. Require all customers (including indirect customers) to prohibit commercial and residential landscape watering, except that foundations may be watered for 2 hours each day with a handheld hose or a soaker hose.
5. Require all customers (including indirect customers) to prohibit golf course watering except for greens and tee boxes.
6. Require all customers (including indirect customers) to prohibit any filling of private pools. Commercial and public pools may refill to replace losses during normal use.
7. Require all commercial water users to reduce water use by a set percentage.
8. Initiate a rate surcharge over normal rates for all water use.

**e. Stage 5 Emergency Condition – Phase 2**

Trigger: System outage due to depletion at water supply or equipment failure

Response Measure: Initiate emergency response procedures

Goal: Discontinue all water system operations.

Requirements of Termination: Stage 5 of the Plan may be resigned when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist and Gastonia-Scurry SUD has disinfected in accordance with AWWA and TCEQ, have chlorine residual back to normal levels and immediately collect bacteriological samples from the distribution system and found negative. Boil water notification may be needed upon termination of Stage 5, Stage 4 becomes operative.

Water Use Restrictions - All requirements of Stage 2, 3, and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 except:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
- b. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or
- c. other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

**Section IX: Water Rationing**

In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the District Manager is hereby authorized to ration water according to the following water allocation plan:

**Single Family Residential Customer**

The allocation to residential water customers residing in a single-family dwelling shall be as follows:

Persons per Household	Gallons per Month
1 or 2	4,000
3 or 4	5,000
5 or 6	6,000
7 or 8	7,000
9 or 10	8,000
11 or more	9,000

“Household” means the residential premises served by the customer’s meter. “Persons per household” includes only those persons currently physically residing at the premises and expected to reside there for the entire billing period. It shall be assumed that a particular customer’s household is comprised of two (2) persons unless the customer notifies the Gastonia-Scurry SUD of a greater number of persons per household on a form prescribed by the District Manager. The District Manager shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every residential customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer’s responsibility to go the Gastonia-Scurry SUD office to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) persons per household. New customers may claim more persons per household at the time of applying for water of persons per household increases so as to place the customer in a different allocation category, the customer may notify the Gastonia-Scurry SUD on such form and change will be implemented in the next practicable billing period. If the number of persons in a house hold is reduced, the customer shall notify the Gastonia-Scurry SUD in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) persons per household, the District Manager shall adopt methods to insure the accuracy of the claim. Any person who knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence falsely reports the number of persons in a household or fails to timely notify the Gastonia-Scurry SUD of a reduction in the number of persons in a household shall be disconnected for up to 7 days.

Residential water customers shall pay the following surcharges:

- \$25.00 for the firsts 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$50.00 for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$75.00 for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$100.00 for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Surcharges shall be cumulative.

**Section X: Procedures for Enforcing Mandatory Water Use Restrictions**

Mandatory water use restrictions may be imposed in Stage 3 and Stage 4 drought stages. These mandatory water use restrictions will be enforced by warnings and penalties as follows:

- a. On the first violation, the customer will be given a written warning that they have violated the mandatory water use restriction.
- b. After a second violation, GSSUD may install a flow restrictor in the line or other device to limit the amount of water delivered to the customer.
- c. GSSUD may charge up to twice the established rate for any water used in violation of mandatory water use restrictions.