



North Texas
Municipal Water District

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Rick Ericson

214.706.6000 (office)

214.679.6362 (cell)

rick@lemastergroup.com

NTMWD Initiates Stage 3 Water Restrictions November 1

Consumers allowed to water lawns only once every two weeks November through March

(Wylie, Texas- September 28, 2011) Officials with the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) have initiated Stage 3 of the *NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan, March 2008, (Plan)*, which goes into effect November 1. The goal of Stage 3 is a 10% reduction in water use and increased awareness in ongoing water conservation efforts.

“The U.S. Drought Monitor anticipates the drought will persist or intensify through December 2011, so we are concerned about the declining water levels of our reservoirs,” said Jim Parks, executive director of NTMWD. “Conservation is a must, especially when it comes to watering your lawns. Stage 3 means consumers are allowed to water their lawns only once every two weeks.”

In addition to the extreme temperatures and continuing drought conditions, NTMWD currently can't pump water from Lake Texoma due to the presence of invasive zebra mussels. Lake Texoma normally provides almost a quarter of NTMWD's raw water supply.

As of Monday, September 26, 2011, Lake Lavon's elevation was down over 11 feet, and is at 52% of useable capacity. In addition, as of the most recent measurement, NTMWD's Lake Chapman water supply is at 35% due to the continued drought.

The NTMWD Board action requests that Member Cities and Customers (including indirect customers) implement the following water conservation strategies:

- Initiate Stage 3 of the Member Cities and Customers drought contingency and water emergency response plans no later than November 1.
- Limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to once every two weeks between November 1 and March 31 and eliminate watering from 10 AM to 6 PM. Residents should check with their city water department for specific city restrictions.

- Foundations, new landscaping, new plantings (first year) of shrubs, and trees may be watered for up to two hours on any day by a hand-held hose, a soaker hose, or a dedicated zone using a drip irrigation system.
- Wait until the current drought has passed before establishing new landscaping and no hydroseeding, hydromulching or sprigging allowed.
- Do not drain and refill swimming pools except to replace normal water loss.
- Halt non-essential city government water use including street cleaning, vehicle washing, operation of ornamental fountains, etc.
- Accelerate public education efforts on ways to reduce water usage by 10%.
- Initiate engineering studies to evaluate alternatives should conditions worsen.
- Watering of golf courses using treated water is prohibited except as needed to keep greens and tee boxes alive.

NTMWD is encouraging residents to check control units, rain and freeze sensors on sprinkler systems to prevent unnecessary usage and to repair any water leaks.

Extending the NTMWD's water supply during Stage 3 through the efficient use of existing water resources is crucial to meeting the long-term water needs of the NTMWD's Member Cities and Customers.

More information and tips on water conservation can be found at www.wateriq.org and www.ntmwd.com.

###