

Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District Drought Management Plan

Adopted April 15, 2011

I. Purpose

The Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District (the District) adopts this plan for the purpose to conserve, preserve, protect, and recharge the groundwater resources of Burnet County, and to prevent waste and degradation of quality of those groundwater resources.

II. Applicability

Provisions of this plan shall apply to all Burnet County wells and all persons or organizations, public or private, owning or operating wells within Burnet County, regardless of purpose of use, size, capacity, date drilled, ownership, or the exempt or non-exempt status of a well.

III. Enforcement

This Drought Management Plan will rely primarily on voluntary compliance, except where otherwise noted for permitted users in drought stages 3 and 4. The District encourages the voluntary reduction measures outlined in this plan to achieve a desired level of conservation and reduced impact to the aquifers. **However, this section does not exclude the District from exercising authority of its civil penalties policy in the District's Rules regarding wasteful use of water.**

IV. Public Water Supply Entities

The District recognizes that Public Water Supply Entities develop and utilize drought contingency plans that accomplish the intent of this Drought Management Plan. The District will support and provide assistance when requested from the Public Water Supply Entity, using groundwater, to implement their plans and use their discretion as to how much desired reduction is to be accomplished during a drought. The District asks to be notified by each Public Water Supply Entity in the event that a drought stage has been triggered or canceled. The District also asks that the Public Water Supply Entity identify and report water reduction volumes due to the implementation of their drought plan on the Annual Water Usage Report required by the District.

V. Initiation and Determination of Drought Stages

The various drought stages will be initiated by the District's Board of Directors (the Board) during a monthly board meeting, utilizing the Palmer Hydrological Drought Index (PHDI) or other factors including requests from local citizens and water users as deemed appropriate by the Board. The District may also utilize its various monitor wells to determine if aquifer levels are declining and may take action as deemed necessary. Each drought stage will last a minimum of 30 days and renew automatically unless changed by Board action.

Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought stages shall be by means of any or all of the following: notification on the District's website, in a newspaper(s) of general circulation, radio announcement, or District mailing, fax, or email to owners/operators of permitted wells. The District's website will display the most current PHDI and current drought stage at all times.

PHDI is developed by NOAA and available at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/historical-palmers.php?index=phdi&month%5B%5D=2&beg_year=2011&end_year=2011&submitted=Submit

The PHDI is a long range cumulative index that measures the long term hydrological drought conditions based on the local climate, current and past weather trends, and is an accurate representative of the groundwater and other hydrological conditions. The PHDI reflects impacts of drought for hydrologic parameters (groundwater levels, reservoir levels, ect) more accurately than the traditional Palmer Drought Index (PDI). The drought stages of this plan will coincide with the various stages of drought in the PHDI which are as follows:

Near Normal	PHDI from -1.99 to +1.99
Moderate Drought	PHDI from -2.00 to -2.99
Severe Drought	PHDI from -3.00 to -3.99
Critical Drought	PHDI from -4.00 to -4.99

VI. Drought Stages

Stage 1-Near Normal

PHDI from -1.99 to +1.99 - This stage is what most people would consider normal seasonal climate conditions for the area.

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal- 5%

Encourage water conservation methods through public awareness of methods to reduce overall usage by 5% through the following practices:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible
- Check for and repair all leaks
- Outdoor lawn and landscape watering should be done during times of low evaporation loss and use timers to avoid overwatering and waste.
- Washing vehicles at a car wash usually uses less water than washing at home
- Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces could be considered waste
- Other water conservation practices

Stage 2- Moderate Drought

PHDI from -2.00 to -2.99

Water Reduction Goal- 10%

Continue to encourage the water conservation methods with a goal to reduce overall usage by 10% through the following practices:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible
- Check for and repair all leaks
- Outdoor lawn and landscape watering should be done between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 am.

- Limit watering of lawns and landscapes to once every 5 to 7 days.
- Wash vehicles only at a car wash when needed.
- Keep decorative fountains, landscape ponds, and swimming pools covered whenever possible to reduce evaporation.
- Do not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces except for human or animal health and safety reasons, or fire hazard prevention.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, swimming pools, or other surface impoundments for holding water that have a total capacity of more than 100,000 gallons is discouraged.
- Water livestock in leak-proof troughs (livestock tanks) when practical.

Stage 3- Severe Drought

PHDI from -3.00 to -3.99

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal- 20%

Continue to encourage the practice of water conservation methods and reduce overall usage by 20% through the following practices:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible
- Check for and repair all leaks
- Outdoor lawn and landscape watering should be done between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 am.
- Limit watering of lawns and landscapes to once every 5 to 7 days.
- Wash vehicles only at a car wash when needed.
- Keep decorative fountains, landscape ponds, and swimming pools covered whenever possible to reduce evaporation.
- Do not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces except for human or animal health and safety reasons, or fire hazard prevention.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, swimming pools, or other surface impoundments for holding water that have a total capacity of more than 100,000 gallons is prohibited, and for total capacities less 100,000 gallons is discouraged.
- Water for dust control only when required by law.
- Watering livestock in leak-proof troughs is recommended.

Mandatory Water Reduction Decision:

- The Board may elect to enforce mandatory reductions for permitted users up to a 10% decrease in yearly production.
- If the Board chooses to adopt mandatory reductions on permitted users, the decision must be made prior to December 31st for the following calendar year's permitted use.
- A public meeting must be held and all permit holders will be notified prior to the meeting.
- The Board shall consider water reduction of a public water supply entity due to the implementation of their drought plan.

- The Board shall consider water reduction plans of other permitted users that have been implemented prior to the proposed date of the mandatory water reduction of the District.
- The Board can terminate the mandatory reduction at any time the Board determines the drought conditions improve to acceptable levels.
- The Board may not increase the mandatory reduction during the year the mandatory reduction is in effect.

Stage 4-Critical Drought

PHDI from -4.00 to -4.99

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal- 30%

Continue to encourage the practice of water conservation methods and reduce overall usage by 30%.

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible
- Check for and repair all leaks
- No watering of lawns or landscapes.
- No vehicle washing
- Do not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces except when required for human or animal health and safety reasons, or fire hazard prevention.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, swimming pools, or other surface impoundments for holding water regardless of capacity is prohibited.
- Water for dust control only when required by law.
- Watering livestock in leak-proof troughs is highly recommended.

Mandatory Water Reduction Decision:

- The Board may elect to enforce mandatory reductions for permitted users up to a 15% decrease in yearly production.
- If the Board chooses to adopt mandatory reductions on permitted users, the decision must be made prior to December 31st for the following calendar year's permitted use.
- A public meeting must be held and all permit holders will be notified prior to the meeting.
- The Board shall consider water reduction of a public water supply entity due to the implementation of their drought plan.
- The Board shall consider water reduction plans of other permitted users that have been implemented prior to the proposed date of the mandatory water reduction of the District.
- The Board can terminate the mandatory reduction at any time the Board determines the drought conditions improve to acceptable levels.
- The Board may not increase the mandatory reduction during the year the mandatory reduction is in effect.