

# YEGUA WATER SYSTEM DROUGHT CONTINGENCY AND EMERGENCY WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

## I. **DECLARATION OF POLICY, PURPOSE, AND INTENT**

In cases of extreme drought, periods of abnormally high usage, system contamination, or extended reduction in ability to supply water due to equipment failure, temporary restrictions may be instituted to limit non-essential water usage. The purpose of the Drought Contingency Plan is to encourage customer conservation in order to maintain supply, storage, or pressure or to comply with the requirements of a court, government agency or other authority.

**YEGUA WATER SYSTEM** (Water System) will monitor usage patterns and provide public education on conservation efforts by public awareness notices, bill stuffers, and other methods that will continue as a constant type of reminder that water should be conserved at all times, not just during drought and emergency time periods. The Water System will also review and evaluate any needed amendments or major modifications due to changes in the Water System service area population, distribution system or supply. Reviews of such and evaluations will be done on a regular basis of five years unless conditions necessitate more frequent amendments.

## II. **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The public may contact the Water System at the above office number to provide input to the plan. The Water System will consider all comments from customers.

## III. **TRIGGER CONDITIONS**

The Water System is responsible for monitoring water supply and demand conditions on a weekly basis, or **daily if conditions warrant**, and shall determine when conditions indicate the initiation or termination of the plan when specified triggers are reached. The Water System will monitor monthly operation reports, water supply or storage tank levels and/or rainfall as needed to determine when trigger conditions are reached. The triggering conditions described below take into consideration: the vulnerability of the water source under drought of record conditions; the production, treatment and distribution capacities of the Water System, and member usage based upon previous usage patterns. **The Water System can enter any Stage of Trigger Conditions at any time, one stage does not have to precede the other.**

- i. *Stage I – Moderate Conditions:* Stage I water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- a. Occurrence of a moderate drought over a 2-month period in the Water System.
  - b. Water consumption has reached 75 percent (195,000 gallons) of daily maximum supply for two (2) consecutive weeks.
  - c. An extended period of at least eight (8) weeks of low rainfall and daily use has risen 20 percent above the use for the same period during the previous year.
- ii. *Stage II – Extreme Conditions:* Stage II water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:
    - a. Water consumption has reached 85 percent (221,000 gallons) of the amount available for one (1) week.
    - b. The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for in a weekly period. The highest recorded water level drops ten (10) feet or more during a one-week period.
- iii. *Stage III – Severe Conditions:* Stage III water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:
    - a. Water consumption has reached 95 percent (247,000 gallons) or more of the maximum available supply for one (1) week.
    - b. Water consumption of 100 percent (260,000 gallons) of the maximum available water supply.
    - c. Failure of a major component of the Water System or an event which reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 20 PSI for a period of 24 hours or more.
    - d. Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
    - e. The declaration of a state of disaster due to drought conditions in a county or counties served by the Water System.
    - f. Reduction of wholesale water supply due to drought conditions.
    - g. Other unforeseen events which could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.

#### IV. **WATER ALLOCATION MEASURES FOR SPECIFIED STAGE LEVELS**

The water allocation measures are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Section III Trigger Conditions. The Water System shall institute monitoring and enforce penalties for violations of the Drought Contingency and Emergency Water Demand Management Plan. The water allocation measures for each stage are summarized below.

- i. *Stage I – Moderate Conditions:* Stage I water allocation measures are as follows.
  - a. **The Water System will visually inspect lines, repair leaks, and check water usage daily.**

- b. Monthly review of customer use records; follow-up on unusually high usage.
  - c. The Water System will reduce flushing operations.
  - d. Reduction of customers' water usage will be encouraged through notices on bills or other methods.
  - e. Restricted Days/Hours: Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems. Customers are requested to limit outdoor water use to **Mondays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 1, 2, or 3, Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 4, 5, or 6, and Fridays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 7, 8, 9, or 0.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
- ii. *Stage II – Extreme Conditions:* Stage II water allocation measures are as follows.
- a. The Water System will visually inspect lines, repair leaks, and check water usage daily.
  - b. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains.
  - c. All non-essential outside water use is prohibited, except for livestock variances.
  - d. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems **shall be limited to Mondays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 1, 2, or 3, Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 4, 5, or 6, and Fridays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 7, 8, 9, or 0.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
  - e. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. 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 are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

- f. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or a jacuzzi type pool are prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- g. 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 recirculation system.
- h. Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.
- i. Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt areas are prohibited except by hand-held hose and only on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- j. 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;
  - e. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
  - f. any waste of water.

iii. *Stage III – Severe Conditions:* Stage III water allocation measures are as follows.

- a. The Water System will visually inspect lines, repair leaks, and check water usage daily.
- b. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains and only between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.
- c. Emergency interconnects or alternative supply arrangements shall be initiated.
- d. All meters shall be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all customers.
- e. Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
- f. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

*\*Note: There may be additional restrictions imposed by Government Entities.*

## VI. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Written notice will be provided to each customer **prior to implementation or termination of each stage of the water restriction program**. Mailed notice must be given to each customer 72 hours prior to the start of water restriction. If notice is hand delivered, the utility cannot enforce the provisions of the plan for 24 hours after notice is provided. The written notice to customers will contain the following information:

- i. the date restrictions will begin,
- ii. the circumstances that triggered the restrictions,
- ii. the stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented, and,
- iii. an explanation of the consequences for violations.

## VII. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

- i. First violation: The customer will be notified by written notice of their specific violation.
- ii. Subsequent violations:
  - a. After written notice, the Water System may install a flow restricting device in the line to limit the amount of water which will pass through the meter in a 24-hour period. The utility may charge the customer for the actual cost of installing and removing the flow restricting device, not to exceed \$50.00.
  - b. After written notice, the Water System may discontinue service at the meter for a period of seven (7) days, or until the end of the calendar month, whichever is LESS. The normal reconnect fee of the Water System will apply for restoration of service.

## VIII. EXEMPTIONS OR VARIANCES

The Water System may grant any customer an exemption or variance from the drought contingency plan for good cause upon written request. The Water System will treat all customers equally concerning exemptions and variances and shall not discriminate in granting exemptions and variances. No exemption or variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.