

**WATER CONSERVATION PLAN  
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR THE  
STONEWALL WATER CONTROL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**CCN: N/A / PWS: 0860104**

**Adopted: September 2000 / Reviewed: July 2008/ Reviewed February 16, 2023 / Revised  
December 14, 2023**

**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, Stonewall Water Control Improvement District (the "WCID" or "District") hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan ("DCP") 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 XI of this Plan.

**Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by Stonewall WCID by means of public discussion at properly posted open public and community meetings.

**Section III: Public Education**

Stonewall WCID 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 discussions at properly posted open public and community meetings, and/or notices on water utility bills. Press releases may also be used as deemed necessary.

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

The service area of Stonewall WCID is located within the States Regional Planning area and will provide a copy of this Plan by request to that Regional Planning Group (Group: K / LCRA, P.O. Box 220, Austin, Texas 78767).

The service area of Stonewall WCID is also located within the Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District (HCUWCD) and will coordinate the District's DCP accordingly.

## **Section V: Authorization**

Stonewall WCID 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. Stonewall WCID 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 DCP shall apply to all persons, customers (Residential or Commercial), and property utilizing water provided by the Stonewall WCID. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the DCP to include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

## **Section VII: Definitions**

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

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

Commercial and institutional water use: water use 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 Stonewall WCID.

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 WCID or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a regular basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

The triggering criteria described below are based on a statistical analysis of the vulnerability of the water source under drought of record conditions, The current drought level as described by the HCUWCD, or based on known system capacity limits,).

## **Stage 1 Triggers -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII – Definitions, when:

- 1) The District’s production wells operate for 18 or more hours per twenty-four hour period for three consecutive days.

And/Or,

- 2) The HCUWCD declares a Stage 1 “Mild” Drought status.
  - a. HCUWCD will declare a Stage 1 “Mild” Drought status if the local drought indices fall between -1.0 to -1.9

### Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the DCP may be rescinded when the District’s production well operates for less than 18 hours per twenty-four hours for a period of 3 consecutive days; or, the HCUWCD rescinds the Stage 1 “Mild” Drought Status.

## **Stage 2 Triggers -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section IX of this DCP when:

- 1) The District’s production well(s) operates for twenty or more hours per twenty-four hour period for three consecutive days.

Ans/Or,

- 2) The HCUWCD declares Stage 2 “Moderate” Drought status.
  - a. HCUWCD will declare a Stage 2 “Moderate” Drought status if the local drought indices fall between -2.0 to -2.9

### Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when the District’s production well(s) operate for less than twenty hours per twenty-four hour period for seven consecutive days; or, when the HCUWCD rescinds the Stage 2 “Moderate” drought status. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

### **Stage 3 Triggers -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

#### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 3 of this DCP when:

- 1) The Districts production well(s) operate for twenty-two or more hours per twenty-four hour period for three consecutive days.

And/Or,

- 2) The HCUWCD declares Stage 3 “Severe” Drought status.
  - b. HCUWCD will declare a Stage 3 “Severe” Drought status if the local drought indices fall between -3.0 to -3.9

#### Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the DCP may be rescinded when the Districts production well(s) operate for less than twenty-two hours per twenty-four hour period for seven consecutive days or, when the HCUWCD rescinds the Stage 3 “Severe” drought status. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

### **Stage 4 Triggers -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

#### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 4 of this Plan when:

- 1) The Districts production well(s) operate for twenty-four hours per twenty-four hour period for three consecutive days.

And/Or,

- 2) The HCUWCD declares Stage 4 “Critical” Drought status.
  - a. HCUWCD will declare a Stage 4 “Critical” Drought status if the local drought indices fall between -4.0 to -4.9

#### Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the DCP may be rescinded when the District’s production well(s) operate for less than twenty-four hours per twenty-four hour period for seven consecutive days or, when the HCUWCD rescinds the Stage 4 “Critical” drought status. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

## **Stage 5 Triggers -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this DCP when the District or his/her designee, determines that a water supply emergency exists based on:

- 1) Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service; or
- 2) Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
- 3) The HCUWCD declares Stage 5 “Emergency” Drought status.
  - a. HCUWCD will declare a Stage 5 “Emergency” Drought status if the local drought indices fall between -5.0 to -5.9

### Requirements for termination

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

## **Section IX: Drought Response Stages**

The Stonewall WCID or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this DCP, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical, or emergency condition exists and shall implement the following notification procedures:

### **Notification**

#### Notification of the Public:

The Stonewall WCID or his/ her designee shall notify the public by means of signs posted in public places and the District’s webpage as well as notices direct mailed to all water customers. Press releases may also be used as deemed necessary.

#### Additional Notification:

The Stonewall WCID or his/ her designee shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities: (1) Fire Chief, (2) Department of Public Safety, (3) TCEQ and (4) all critical water uses.

## **Stage 1 Response -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a voluntary 10 percent reduction in total water use.

### Supply Management Measures:

Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, activation and use of alternative supply sources, and use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

### Voluntary Water Use Restrictions:

- (a) Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Mondays for water customers with a street address ending in 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; and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m to 12:00 midnight on designated watering days.
- (b) All operations of the Stonewall WCID shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 1 of the DCP.
- (c) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes.

## **Stage 2 Response -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a 20 percent mandatory reduction in total water use.

### Supply Management Measures:

Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas, use of an alternative supply source(s), and use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

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

- (a) 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 in 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; and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime 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.

- (b) 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 until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. to 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 is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
- (c) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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 District.
- (f) Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited.
- (g) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.
- (h) The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
  - 1. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - 2. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - 3. use of water for dust control;
  - 4. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and,
  - 5. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).



### **Stage 3 Response -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a 30 percent reduction in total water use.

Supply Management Measures:

Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas, use of an alternative supply source(s), and use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

Water Use Restrictions. All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. to 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip irrigation, or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system only. The use of hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
- (b) The watering of golf course tees is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the District.
- (c) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.

### **Stage 4 Response -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a 40 percent reduction in total water use.

Supply Management Measures:

Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas, use of an alternative supply source(s), and use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

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

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.

- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare is prohibited. Further, such vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations shall occur only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and between 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- (c) The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.
- (d) 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.
- (e) No application for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be approved, and time limits for approval of such applications are hereby suspended for such time as this drought response stage or a higher-numbered stage shall be in effect.

**Stage 5 Response -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a 50 percent reduction in total water use.

Supply Management Measures:

Reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas, use of an alternative supply source(s), and use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

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 other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

**Section X: Enforcement**

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from Stonewall WCID for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this DCP, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by the District or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this DCP.

- (b) Any person who violates this Plan may have their water service restricted or terminated. Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person violates this Plan three or more times, the District or General Manager shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge, hereby established by the rate order, all fees incurred and any other costs incurred by the WCID in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be given to the District or General Manager that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect. Compliance with this plan may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court.
- (c) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of Stonewall WCID, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttal presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. Parents shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children and proof that a violation, committed by a child, occurred on property within the parents' control shall constitute a rebuttal presumption that the parent committed the violation, but any such parent may be excused if he/she proves that he/she had previously directed the child not to use the water as it was used in violation of this Plan and that the parent could not have reasonably known of the violation.
- (d) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of Stonewall WCID, in apparent control of the property shall be responsible for all water metered and delivered to said property. During any declared drought stage, relief of high water bills due to leaks, failing water-using appliances or other water losses cannot be granted.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The Stonewall WCID or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this DCP if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this DCP cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- (b) Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the WCID within 5 days after the DCP or a particular drought response stage has

been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the District or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the DCP from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the DCP adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this DCP and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.

Variances granted by the Stonewall WCID or General Manager shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the District or his/her designee:

- (a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variances granted shall expire when the current DCP drought stage is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this DCP occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

The Drought Contingency Plan was reviewed and / or revised at the District's public meeting held on October 4, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikolaus Hopkins, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurel Hoekstra, Secretary