

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

2024

**WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT**

PWS 1230021

7824 Glenbrook Dr.

Beaumont, TX 77705

Jefferson County Texas

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WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

7824 GLENBROOK DRIVE
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705

Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

In order to conserve the available water supply and/or to 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 West Jefferson County Municipal Water District (WJCMWD) hereby adopts the following Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan).

Section II: Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public and wholesale water customers to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the WJCMWD by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan.

Section III: Wholesale Water Customer Education

The WJCMWD will periodically provide wholesale water customers 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 press release or utility bill inserts.

Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The water service area of the WJCMWD is located within the East Texas Region (I) regional water planning area and the WJCMWD has provided a copy of the Plan to the Texas Water Development Board - East Texas Region (I).

Section V: Authorization

The Board President, 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 Board President, 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 customers utilizing water provided by the WJCMWD. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

Section VII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The General 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. Customer notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages will be made by mail or telephone. The news media will also be informed.

The triggering criteria described below are based on known system capacity limit

Stage 1 Triggers — MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for Initiation - The WJCMWD will recognize that a mild water shortage condition exists when:

- a) Daily water demand equals or exceeds 2.3 million gallons per day for three (3) consecutive days of 2.3 million gallons on a single day.
- b) Pursuant to requirements specified in the Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) wholesale water purchase contract with WJCMWD, notification is received requesting initiation of any stage of the Drought Contingency Plan.

Requirements for termination - Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days. The WJCMWD will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 1 in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage 1 of the Plan.

Stage 2 Triggers — MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirement for Initiation - The WJCMWD will recognize that a moderate water shortage condition exists when:

- a) Daily water demand equals or exceeds 2.5 million gallons per day for three (3) consecutive days of 2.5 million gallons on a single day.
- b) Pursuant to requirements specified in the Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) wholesale water purchase contract with WJCMWD, notification is received requesting initiation of any stage of the Drought Contingency Plan.

Requirements for termination - Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative. The WJCMWD will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 2 in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage 1 of the Plan.

Stage 3 Triggers — SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation - The WJCMWD will recognize that a severe water shortage condition exists when:

- a) Daily water demand equals or exceeds 2.65 million gallons per day for three (3) consecutive days of 2.65 million gallons on a single day.
- b) Pursuant to requirements specified in the Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) wholesale water purchase contract with WJCMWD, notification is received requesting initiation of any stage of the Drought Contingency Plan.

Requirements for termination - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative. The WJCMWD will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 2 in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage 3 of the Plan.

Stage 4 Triggers — EMERGENCY Water Conditions

Requirements for initiation - The WJCMWD will recognize that an emergency water condition exists when:

- a) Major usage, water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service, pressure, storage; or
- b) Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
- c) Any condition deemed an emergency.

Requirements for termination - Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days. The WJCMWD will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 4.

Section VIII: Drought Response Stages

The General Manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VII, shall determine that mild,

moderate, or severe water shortage conditions exist or that an emergency condition exists and shall implement the following actions:

Stage 1 Response — MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a voluntary 16 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

Alternate supply shall be provided from 17 million gallon backup reservoir and the management of pro rata supply is left to the discretion of management of West Jefferson County Municipal Water District.

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- (a) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will contact water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will request that water customers initiate voluntary measures to reduce water use or to implement Stage 1 of the drought contingency plan.
- (b) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to news media with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

Stage 2 Response — MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 23.3 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

Alternate supply shall be provided from 17 million gallon backup reservoir and the management of pro rata supply is left to the discretion of management of West Jefferson County Municipal Water District.

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- a) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate weekly contact with water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and the possibility of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries.

- b) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will request water customers to initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use or implement Stage 2 of the drought contingency plan.
- c) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate preparations for the implementation of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries by preparing a monthly water usage allocation baseline for each wholesale /industrial/commercial customers according to the procedures specified in Section VII of the Plan.
- d) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to news media with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

Stage 3 Response — SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 28.3 percent reduction in daily water demand.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

Alternate supply shall be provided from 17 million gallon backup reservoir and the management of pro rata supply is left to the discretion of management of West Jefferson County Municipal Water District.

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- (a) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will contact water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will request that water customers initiate additional mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use or implement Stage 2 of the drought contingency plan.
- (b) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries for each wholesale/industrial/commercial customer according to the procedures specified in Section VII of the Plan.
- (c) The General Manager, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to news media with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

Stage 4 Response — EMERGENCY Water Conditions

Whenever emergency water shortage conditions exist as defined in Section VII of the Plan, the General Manager shall:

1. Assess the severity of the problem and identify the actions needed and time required to solve the problem.
2. Inform the utility director or other responsible official of each wholesale/industrial water customers by telephone or in person and suggest actions, as appropriate, to alleviate problems.
3. If appropriate, notify city, county, and/or state emergency response officials for assistance.
4. Undertake necessary actions, including repairs and/or clean-up as needed.
5. Prepare a post-event assessment report on the incident and critique of emergency response procedures and actions.

Section IX: Pro Rata Water Allocation

In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section VII of the Plan for Stage 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions have been met, the General Manager is hereby authorized initiate allocation of water supplies on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code Section 11.039.

Section X: Enforcement

At discretion of management additional fines, fees, curtailments, up to disconnection of service may be enforced on any customer for non-compliance. During any period when pro rata allocation of available water supplies is in effect, customers shall pay the monthly minimum metered rate (including 2,000 gallons) plus following surcharges on excess water diversions and/or deliveries:

- \$ 4.62 per additional 1,000 gallons from 2,001 gallons through 8,000 gallons.
- \$ 4.94 per additional 1,000 gallons from 8,001 gallons through 15,000 gallons.
- \$ 5.48 per additional 1,000 gallons from 15,001gallons through 300,000 gallons.
- \$ 6.07 per additional 1,000 gallons from 300,001 and above.

The above surcharges shall be cumulative.

Section XI: Variances

The General Manager, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant a temporary variance to the pro rata water allocation policies provided by this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the public health, welfare, or safety and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this Plan 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 Plan shall file a petition for variance with the General Manager within 5 days after pro rata allocation has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the WJCMWD Board of Management, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Detailed statement with supporting data and information as to how the pro rata allocation of water under the policies and procedures established in the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (c) Description of the relief requested.
- (d) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (e) Alternative measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (f) Other pertinent information.

Variances granted by the WJCMWD Board of Management shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the WJCMWD Board of Management or its designee:

- (a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan 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 Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

Section XII: Severability

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the WJCMWD Board of Management that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Plan are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Plan shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Plan, since the same would not have been enacted by the WJCMWD Board of Management without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

WJCMWD 2007 Drought Contingency

Organization	Phone Numbers (include area code)		E-Mail or Website
	Day	Evening	
Fire Department	911	911	jcesd4.com
Police Department	911	911	
Emergency Medical Service	911	911	jcesd4.com
TCEQ Water Homeland Security	888/777-3186	888/777-3186	
Texas PUC	512/936-7405		http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/water/utilities/fmt.aspx Email: water@puc.texas.gov
National Response Center	800/424-8802	800/424-8802	http://nrc.uscg.mil/Default.aspx
State Spill Hotline	800/832-8224	800/832-8224	https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/spills
Poison Control	800/222-1222	800/222-1222	http://poisoncontrol.org/home/
CHLOREP (Chlorine Emergency Plan)	800/424-9300	800/424-9300	https://www.chlorineinstitute.org/emergency-preparedness/chlorep/
TCEQ Regional Office	24-hour cell phone 512/965-2717		Website: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/directory/region/reglist.html
County Judge	(409)835-8400		Email: jbranick@co.jefferson.tx.us Website: co.jefferson.tx.us
County Office of Emergency Management	(409)835-8757		Email: jclepc@co.jefferson.tx.us Website: co.jefferson.tx.us/em.htm
County Sheriff's Office	(409)835-8411	(409)835-8631	Email: sheriffs@co.jefferson.tx.us Website: co.jefferson.tx.us/Sheriff/
County Public Health & Environmental Services	(409)835-8530		Email: eede@co.jefferson.tx.us Website: co.jefferson.tx.us/PublicHealth
TX Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	Provides list of State and District Coordinators which assist local officials with state assistance requests. Requests must start at local level first.		https://tdem.texas.gov/field-response/
TXWARN	866/9-TXWARN (866/989-9276)		Email: info@txwarn.org https://www.txwarn.org

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