

# **TARIFF**

**OF**

## **Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation**

### **SECTION H: DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

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## **1.0 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 nonessential water usage. The purpose of the Drought Contingency Plan (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.

## **2.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by duly-noticed public meeting of the CMWSC board of directors held on June 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

## **3.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation (CMWSC) will periodically provide the public with information about the Drought Contingency 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. Drought plan information will be provided by notice on CMWSC's website and with utility bill inserts. In the future, CMWSC may also email notices to their customers.

## **4.0 COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS**

CMWSC is primarily located within the Region K Water Planning Group. A copy of this Plan has been provided to Region K.

## **5.0 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, CMWSC cannot enforce the provisions of the plan for 24 hours after notice is provided. The written notice to customers will contain the following information:

- 1) The date restrictions will begin;
- 2) The circumstances that triggered the restrictions;
- 3) The stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented; and
- 4) An explanation of the consequences for violations.

CMWSC must notify the TCEQ by telephone at 512/239-4691, or electronic mail at [watermon@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:watermon@tceq.state.tx.us) prior to implementing Stage II and must notify in writing the

Public Drinking Water Section at MC-155, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 within five (5) working days of implementation including a copy of the utility's restriction notice. CMWSC must file a status report of its restriction program with the TCEQ at the initiation and termination of mandatory water use restrictions (i.e., Stages II and III).

## **6.0 VIOLATIONS**

For the first violation, the customer will be notified by written notice of their specific violation. For subsequent violations CMWSC may do the following:

- 1) After written notice, CMWSC 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.
- 2) After written notice, CMWSC 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 utility will apply for restoration of service.

## **7.0 EXEMPTIONS OR VARIANCES**

Water use restrictions are automatically waived during emergencies such as firefighting or a situation endangering human life. CMWSC may grant any customer an exemption or variance from the drought contingency plan for good cause upon written request. A customer who is refused an exemption or variance may appeal such action of the utility in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. CMWSC will treat all its members 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.

## **8.0 RESPONSE STAGES AND TRIGGERS**

Unless there is an immediate and extreme reduction in water production, or other absolute necessity to declare an emergency or severe condition, CMWSC will initially declare Stage I restrictions. If, after a reasonable period of time, demand is not reduced enough to alleviate outages, reduce the risk of outages, or comply with restrictions required by a court, government agency or other authority, Stage II may be implemented with Stage III to follow if necessary.

### **8.1 CUSTOMER AWARENESS AND VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION**

In a voluntary water conservation period CMWSC will promote customer awareness of voluntary water conservation measures. CMWSC's goal will be a 10% reduction in daily water use over baseline conditions. CMWSC will trigger Voluntary Water Conservation if those conditions are declared by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

(CMWSC's primary water supply) or by CMWSC's secondary water suppliers (the City of Austin or Aqua Water Supply Corporation).

During periods of Voluntary Water Conservation CMWSC will request that customers voluntarily limit their use of water for nonessential purposes and to practice water conservation.

## **8.2 STAGE I - MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS (ALARM STAGE)**

If this response stage is triggered CMWSC will restrict the use of water. CMWSC's goal will be a 20% reduction in daily water use over baseline conditions. CMWSC will trigger Stage I if any of the following trigger conditions are met:

- 1) Water consumption has reached 80 percent of daily maximum supply for three (3) consecutive days.
- 2) Water supply is reduced to a level that is only 20 percent greater than the average consumption for the previous month.
- 3) There is an extended period (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.
- 4) Alarm Stage pumpage reductions are ordered by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, the City of Austin Water Utility, or Aqua Water Supply Corporation; or similar water conservation order by the TCEQ or other empowered agency is issued.

Upon initiation and termination of Stage I, CMWSC will mail a public announcement to its customers. No notice to the TCEQ is required. Upon termination of Stage I, CMWSC will promote voluntary water conservation.

During Stage I conditions, CMWSC will visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis. CMWSC will also review customer use records on a monthly basis and follow-up on any that have unusually high usage. CMWSC will also follow contractually required procedures during Stage I.

Finally, CMWSC will request customers water outside during evening and morning hours only. Periods when watering is encouraged will be provided in the customer notices, but will generally be between 8 pm and 7 am. 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. CMWSC will also request that customers reduce the amount of water used for livestock.

## **8.3 STAGE II - CRITICAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS**

If this response stage is triggered CMWSC will restrict the use of water. CMWSC's goal will be a 30% reduction in daily water use over baseline conditions. CMWSC will trigger Stage II if any of the following trigger conditions are met:

- 1) Water consumption has reached 90 percent of the amount available for three consecutive days.

- 2) The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for three (3) consecutive days or as may otherwise be indicated in the Corporation's approved draught management plan.
- 3) Critical Stage pumpage reductions are ordered by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, the City of Austin Water Utility, or Aqua Water Supply Corporation; or similar water conservation order by the TCEQ or other empowered agency.

Upon initiation and termination of Stage II, CMWSC will mail a public announcement to its customers and mail and email notice to the TCEQ<sup>1</sup> (notice to the TCEQ is required). Stage II of the Plan may end 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 II, Stage I becomes operative.

While in Stage II, CMWSC will visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a daily basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains. The Mandatory Water Use Restrictions CMWSC will impose on its customers are:

- 1) 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 and locations without addresses; 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi type pool 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 5 for TCEQ Notice requirements.

- 6) Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt area is 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.

The following uses of water are defined as nonessential 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 (unless dust control is a requirement of a specific TCEQ permit).
- 4) Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.
- 5) Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).
- 6) Any other waste of water.

#### **8.4 STAGE III – EXCEPTIONAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS AND EMERGENCY CONDITIONS**

If this response stage is triggered CMWSC will restrict the use of water. CMWSC's goal will be a 40% reduction in daily water use over baseline conditions. CMWSC will trigger Stage III if any of the following trigger conditions are met:

- 1) Failure of a major component of the system or an event which reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 20 psi for a period of 24 hours or longer.
- 2) Water consumption of 95 percent or more of the maximum available for three (3) consecutive days.
- 3) Water consumption of 100 percent of the maximum available and the water storage levels in the system drop during one 24-hour period.
- 4) Other unforeseen events that could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.
- 5) Exceptional Stage pumpage reductions are ordered by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, the City of Austin Water Utility, or Aqua Water Supply Corporation; or similar water conservation order by the TCEQ or other empowered agency is issued.

Upon initiation and termination of Stage III, CMWSC will mail a public announcement to its customers and mail and email notice to the TCEQ<sup>2</sup> (notice to the TCEQ is required). In addition, in the event of a system outage or supply contamination CMWSC will notify the TCEQ immediately.

Stage III of the Plan may end 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 III, Stage II becomes operative.

While in Stage III, CMWSC will visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a daily basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains and only between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Emergency interconnects or alternative supply arrangements shall be initiated. All meters shall be read as often as necessary to insure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 5 for TCEQ Notice requirements.

The Mandatory Water Use Restrictions CMWSC will impose on its customers are:

- 1) Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited. CMWSC may also prohibit or limit water available for livestock watering and the irrigation of tree farms by notice.
- 2) Water use will be restricted to a percentage of each member's prior month's usage. The percentage may be adjusted as needed according to demand on the system. Notice of this amount will be sent to each customer.
- 3) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

## DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN APPENDIX A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

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

Agricultural water use: water use which is integral to the operations of farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related activities.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments, government entities, and business 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 CMWSC.

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.

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 firefighting.

Voluntary conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that customers and/or the public conduct voluntarily to 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.