



# **Model Drought Contingency Plan for the Fayette Water Supply Corporation**

**EAST**

**July 2013**

**Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality**

# **DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR**

**Fayette Water Supply Corporation**

**P.O. Box 724**

**10726**

**0750034**

**6-27-13**

## **Section 1 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.

**Please note:** Water restriction is not a legitimate alternative if a water system does not meet the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) capacity requirements under normal conditions **or** if the utility fails to take all immediate and necessary steps to replace or repair malfunctioning equipment.

## **Section 2 Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by Fayette Water Supply Corporation by means of a public meeting held on March 13, 2009 after the public was invited to attend by means of the meeting being posted at the County Clerks Office and on local radio station.

### **Section 3      Public Education**

The Fayette Water Supply Corporation 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.

Drought plan information will be provided by: Notice sent by U.S. Mail

### **Section 4      Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the Fayette Water Supply Corporation is located within Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) K.

Fayette Water Supply Corporation has mailed a copy of this Plan to the RWPG.

### **Section 5      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:

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.

**The utility 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 III 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. The utility 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 III and IV).**

### **Section 6      Violations**

1. First violation - The customer will be notified by written notice of their specific violation.
2. Subsequent violations:
  - a. After written notice, the utility 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 utility 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.

## **Section 7 Exemptions or Variances**

The utility 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. The utility 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.

## **Section 8 Response Stages**

Unless there is an immediate and extreme reduction in water production, or other absolute necessity to declare an emergency or severe condition, the utility 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.

### **STAGE I - CUSTOMER AWARENESS**

Stage I will begin:

**When average daily water use reaches 85% of plant capacity 539,000 gallons per day on the Rutersville/Walhalla System for three (3) consecutive days. Consideration will be given to the weather conditions, time of year, and customer complaints**

Stage I will end:

**When average daily water use drops below 75% of plant capacity for three (3) consecutive days.**

Utility Measures:

This announcement will be designed to increase customer awareness of water conservation and encourage the most efficient use of water. A copy of the current public announcement on water conservation awareness shall be kept on file available for inspection by the TCEQ.

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions:

Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the use of water for nonessential purposes and to practice water conservation.

### **STAGE II - VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION:**

The water utility will implement Stage II when any one of the selected triggers is reached:

When average daily water use reaches 90% of plant capacity, 571,000 gallons, per day on the

Rutersville/Walhalla system for three (3) consecutive days; or, Water storage levels are decreasing and fall below 40% (50,000 gallons for the Rutersville/Walhalla system) for 48 hours; or, Water pressure drops to 35 psi.

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage II, the utility will mail a public announcement to its customers. No notice to TCEQ required.**

Requirements for Termination:

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.

Utility Measures:

Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a daily basis. Monthly review of customer use records and follow-up on any that have unusually high usage.

*Fayette Water Supply Corporation will cease the flushing of the main lines and use the interconnection that they have with the City of La Grange..*

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions:

1. Restricted Hours: Outside watering is allowed daily, but only during periods specifically described in the customer notice; between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. for example;
2. 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 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; or
3. Other uses that waste water such as water running down the gutter.

### **STAGE III - MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

The water utility will implement Stage III when any one of the selected triggers is reached:

When water demand exceeds 95% of capacity (603,000 gallons per day for the Rutersville/Walhalla system) for two (2) consecutive days; or, Supply reservoir levels reduce to a point where demand exceeds available supply; or, Imminent or actual failure of system components affecting health and safety.

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage III, the utility will mail a public announcement to its customers. Notice to TCEQ required.**

#### Requirements for Termination:

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.

#### Utility Measures:

Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains.

*Fayette Water Supply Corporation will use interconnection they have with the City of La Grange..*

#### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

The following water use restrictions shall apply to all customers.

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, 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 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.
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

AJacuzzi@ 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.
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.
7. The following uses of water are defined as nonessential 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.

**EXAMPLE RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF A  
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE Fayette Water  
Supply Corporation ADOPTING A DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the amount of water available to the Fayette Water Supply Corporation and its water utility customers are limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that natural limitations due to drought conditions and other acts of God cannot guarantee an uninterrupted water supply for all purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 11.1272 of the Texas Water Code and applicable rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require all public water supply systems in Texas to prepare a drought contingency plan; and

WHEREAS, as authorized under law, and in the best interests of the customers of the Fayette Water Supply Corporation, the Board deems it expedient and necessary to establish certain rules and policies for the orderly and efficient management of limited water supplies during drought and other water supply emergencies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE Fayette Water Supply Corporation:

SECTION 1. That the Drought Contingency Plan attached hereto as Exhibit AA@ and made part hereof for all purposes be, and the same is hereby, adopted as the official policy of the Fayette Water Supply Corporation.

SECTION 2. That the General Manager is hereby directed to implement, administer, and enforce the Drought Contingency Plan.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

DULY PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE Fayette Water Supply Corporation, ON  
THIS 8 day of July, 2013.

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**President, Board of Directors**

ATTESTED TO:

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Secretary, Board of Directors