



NORTH TEXAS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Drought Contingency Plan

Adopted February 9, 2021

I. Purpose

The North Texas Groundwater Conservation District (the District) adopts this Drought Contingency Plan (“plan”) for the purpose to conserve, preserve, protect, and recharge the groundwater resources of Cooke, Collin and Denton Counties, and to prevent waste and degradation of quality of those groundwater resources. The Board of Directors adopts this plan in order to implement Sections 36.113 and 36.1131 of the Texas Water Code, and Sections 3.10(a), 3.16(b), and 6.2 of the District’s Rules.

II. Applicability

Provisions of this plan shall apply to all registered wells and all persons or organizations, public or private, owning or operating wells within Cooke, Collin or Denton Counties, regardless of purpose of use, size, capacity, date drilled, ownership, or the exemption status of a well.

III. Enforcement

This Drought Contingency Plan will rely primarily on voluntary compliance. The District encourages the voluntary reduction measures outlined in this plan to achieve a desired level of conservation and reduced impact to the aquifers. However, this section does not exclude the District from exercising authority of its Enforcement Policy and Civil Penalty Schedule in the District’s Rules regarding wasteful use of water.

IV. Public Water Supply Entities

The District recognizes that Public Water Supply Entities develop and utilize drought contingency plans that accomplish the intent of this Drought Contingency Plan. The District will support and provide assistance when requested from a Public Water Supply Entity, using groundwater, to implement their plans and use their discretion as to how much desired reduction is to be accomplished during a drought. The District asks to be notified by each Public Water Supply Entity in the event that a drought stage has been triggered or canceled.

V. *Initiation and Determination of Drought Stages*

The various drought stages will be initiated and terminated by the District’s Board of Directors (the Board), utilizing the Texas Water Development Board’s (TWDB) publication of the U.S. Drought Monitor. Each drought stage will last a minimum of 30 days and renew automatically unless changed by Board action.

The drought stages will be implemented and terminated by resolution of the Board of Directors and will be implemented on a county-by-county basis.

Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought stages shall be by means of any of the following: notification on the District’s website, in a newspaper(s) of general circulation, radio announcement, mail, fax, or email to owners/operators of permitted wells. The District’s website will display the most current drought stage.

The TWDB’s publication of the U.S. Drought Monitor can be found [here](#).

The weekly map is based on measurements of climatic, hydrologic and soil conditions, as well as reported impacts and observations from more than 350 contributors around the country. Eleven climatologists from the partner organizations take turns serving as the lead author producing the map each week. The authors examine all the data and use their best judgment to reconcile any variances in what different sources report. The U.S. Drought Monitor is a composite index that includes many indicators. The drought stages of this plan will coincide with the various stages of drought which are as follows:

Category	Description	Ranges				
		Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI)	CPC Soil Moisture Model (Percentiles)	USGS Weekly Streamflow (Percentiles)	Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)	Objective Drought Indicator Blends (Percentiles)
D0	Abnormally Dry	-1.0 to -1.9	21 to 30	21 to 30	-0.5 to -0.7	21 to 30
D1	Moderate Drought	-2.0 to -2.9	11 to 20	11 to 20	-0.8 to -1.2	11 to 20
D2	Severe Drought	-3.0 to -3.9	6 to 10	6 to 10	-1.3 to -1.5	6 to 10
D3	Extreme Drought	-4.0 to -4.9	3 to 5	3 to 5	-1.6 to -1.9	3 to 5
D4	Exceptional Drought	-5.0 or less	0 to 2	0 to 2	-2.0 or less	0 to 2

VI. *Drought Stages*

Stage 1 - Moderate Drought

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal - 5%. Encourage water conservation methods through public awareness of methods to reduce overall usage by 5% through the following practices:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible.

- Check for and repair all leaks.
- Outdoor lawn and landscape watering should be done during times of low evaporation loss and use timers or smart irrigation controllers to avoid overwatering and waste.
- Washing vehicles at a car wash usually uses less water than washing at home.
- Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces could be considered waste.
- Other water conservation practices.

Stage 2 - Severe Drought

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal - 10%. Continue to encourage the water conservation methods with a goal to reduce overall usage by 10% through the following practices:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible.
- Check for and repair all leaks.
- Outdoor lawn and landscape watering should be done between the hours of 8:00 PM to 10:00 AM.
- Limit watering of lawns and landscapes to once every 5 to 7 days.
- Wash vehicles only at a car wash when needed.
- Keep decorative fountains, landscape ponds, and swimming pools covered whenever possible to reduce evaporation.
- Do not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces except for human or animal health and safety reasons, or fire hazard prevention.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, swimming pools, or other surface impoundments for holding water that have a total capacity of more than 100,000 gallons is discouraged.
- Water livestock in leak-proof troughs (livestock tanks) when practical.

Stage 3 - Extreme Drought

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal - 20%. Continue to encourage the practice of water conservation methods and reduce overall usage by 20% through the following practices:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible.
- Check for and repair all leaks.
- Outdoor lawn and landscape watering should be done between the hours of 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM.
- Limit watering of lawns and landscapes to once every 5 to 7 days.
- Wash vehicles only at a car wash when needed.

- Keep decorative fountains, landscape ponds, and swimming pools covered whenever possible to reduce evaporation.
- Do not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces except for human or animal health and safety reasons, or fire hazard prevention.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, swimming pools, or other surface impoundments for holding water that have a total capacity of more than 100,000 gallons is discouraged.
- Water for dust control is discouraged.
- Watering livestock in leak-proof troughs is recommended.

Stage 4 - Exceptional Drought

Voluntary Water Reduction Goal - 30%. Continue to encourage the practice of water conservation methods and reduce overall usage by 30%:

- Re-use and re-circulate water whenever possible.
- Check for and repair all leaks.
- Limit watering of lawns and landscapes to once every 14 days.
- No vehicle washing
- Do not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, or any outdoor surfaces except when required for human or animal health and safety reasons, or fire hazard prevention.
- Providing groundwater to ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, swimming pools, or other surface impoundments for holding water regardless of capacity is prohibited.
- Water for dust control only when required by law.
- Watering livestock in leak-proof troughs is highly recommended.