

**ROSS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION  
1527 ROSS RD  
ELM MOTT, TX 76640  
P. O. BOX 202  
ROSS, TX 76684  
CCN # 11268**

**CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Ross Water Supply Corporation Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan is intended to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of the water supply facilities, with regard to public health, sanitation, and fire protection. Ross Water Supply has a wholesale water contract with the City of Waco so our plan has to match or be more stringent than the City's Plan. The Ross Water Supply Plan is based on the City of Waco Plan.

The following abbreviations are used in the plan:

RWSC-Ross Water Supply Corporation

Waco-Waco City Manager, city manager or designee, City of Waco, Waco Water Utility Department

## **CONSERVATION PLAN - INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Water supply has always been a key issue in the development of Texas. In recent years, the increasing population and economic development of Central Texas have led to growing demands for water supplies. At the same time, local and less expensive sources of water supply are largely already developed. Additional supplies to meet future demands will be expensive and difficult to secure. Severe drought conditions in the recent past have highlighted the importance of the efficient use of our existing supplies to make them last as long as possible. Extending current supplies will delay the need for new supplies, minimize the environmental impacts associated with developing new supplies, and delay the high cost of additional water supply development.

Recognizing the need for efficient use of existing water supplies, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has developed guidelines and requirements governing the development of water conservation plans. The Ross Water Supply Corporation (RWSC) has developed this Water Conservation Plan in accordance with TCEQ guidelines and requirements.

RWSC also recognizes that, in order to achieve its goals of maximizing water conservation and efficiency, it is necessary to develop and implement a water conservation plan that goes beyond basic compliance with TCEQ guidelines and requirements. This Plan reflects the commitment to enhanced water conservation and efficiency strategies by RWSC.

The objectives of this Water Conservation Plan are as follows:

- To reduce water consumption from the levels that would prevail without conservation efforts.
- To reduce the loss and waste of water.
- To improve efficiency in the use of water.
- To encourage efficient outdoor water use.
- To document the level of recycling and reuse in the water supply.
- To extend the life of current water supplies by reducing the rate of growth in demand.

The RWSC's plan will achieve significant conservation savings to help extend the life of existing supplies without burdening the customer with unnecessary additional costs.

## **REGULATORY BASIS FOR WATER CONSERVATION PLAN**

### **TCEQ RULES GOVERNING CONSERVATION PLANS**

The TCEQ rules governing development of water conservation plans for public water suppliers are contained in Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 288, Subchapter A, Rule 288.2 of the Texas Administrative Code, which is included in Appendix B. For the purpose of these rules, a water conservation plan is defined as "A strategy or combination of strategies for reducing the volume of water withdrawn from a water supply source, for reducing the loss or waste of water, for maintaining or improving the efficiency in the use of water, for increasing the recycling and reuse of water, and for preventing the pollution of water." The elements in the TCEQ water conservation rules covered in this conservation plan are listed below.

## Minimum Conservation Plan Requirements

The minimum requirements in the Texas Administrative Code for Water Conservation Plans for Public Water Suppliers are covered in this report as follows:

- 288.2(a)(1)(A) – Utility Profiles – Section 4
- 288.2(a)(1)(B) – Record Management System – Section 12
- 288.2(a)(1)(C) – Specific, Quantified Goals – Section 5.3
- 288.2(a)(1)(D) – Accurate Metering – Section 14
- 288.2(a)(1)(E) – Universal Metering – Section 14
- 288.2(a)(1)(F) – Determination and Control of Water Loss – Section 15
- 288.2(a)(1)(G) – Public Education and Information Program – Section 9
- 288.2(a)(1)(H) – Non-Promotional Water Rate Structure – Section 18
- 288.2(a)(1)(I) – Reservoir System Operation Plan – Section 19
- 288.2(a)(1)(J) – Means of Implementation and Enforcement – Section 21
- 288.2(a)(1)(K) – Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups – Section 10 and Section V
- 288.2(c) – Review and Update of Plan – Section 22
  - Conservation Additional Requirements (Population over 5,000) Section 11.6
  - The Texas Administrative Code includes additional requirements for water conservation plans for drinking water supplies serving a population over 5,000:
    - 288.2(a)(2)(A) – Leak Detection, Repair, and Water Loss Accounting – Section 16
    - 288.2(a)(2)(B) – Requirement for Water Conservation Plans by Wholesale Customers – Section 2.3

## Additional Conservation Strategies

The Texas Administrative Code lists additional conservation strategies, which may be adopted by suppliers but are not required. Additional strategies adopted by RWSC include the following:

- 288.2(a)(3)(A) – Conservation Oriented Water Rates –Section 18 and Conservation Rates in Drought Contingency and Emergency Water Management Plan
- 288.2(a)(3)(B) – Ordinances, Plumbing Codes or Rules on Water-Conserving Fixtures – Section 11.1 and Section 11.6
- 288.2(a)(3)(C) – Replacement of Retrofit of Water-Conserving Fixtures – Section 11.6
- 288.2(a)(3)(D) – Reuse and Recycling of Wastewater – Section 7
- 288.2(a)(3)(F) – Considerations for Landscape Water Management Regulations – Sections 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, Stage 1, 2, & 3 Responses, Section XI

## **GUIDANCE AND METHODOLOGY FOR REPORTING ON WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER USE**

In addition to TCEQ rules regarding water conservation, this Plan also incorporates elements of the Guidance and Methodology for Reporting on Water Conservation and Water Use developed by TWDB and TCEQ, in consultation with the Water Conservation Advisory Council (the "Guidance"). The Guidance was developed in response to a charge by the 82nd Texas Legislature to develop water use and calculation methodology and guidance for preparation of water use reports and water conservation plans in accordance with TCEQ rules. RWSC has considered elements of the Guidance in preparation of this Plan.

### **TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD WATER CONSERVATION PLANNING TOOL**

The TWDB has developed a Municipal Water Conservation Planning Tool to be utilized by utilities to evaluate various best management practices. The tool is pre-loaded with data submitted by utilities as part of the water use surveys and has a library of best management practices with water savings and associated cost. The tool was released on December 14, 2018, and was available for the development of this Water Conservation Plan. The City of Waco has utilized the tool in development of the per capita goals in this Plan and for comparing cost and savings. In addition, Waco encourages each of its Wholesale Customers to utilize the tool, to the extent practical, for water conservation planning.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

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

Accounts – all Single Family and all Non-Single Family Accounts, collectively

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

Athletic Field - A developed recreation area that may contain a playground as well as fields for competitive sports such as baseball, softball, football, or soccer.

Commercial and institutional water use – Water use, which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments, governmental entities, all retail establishments, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation – A strategy or combination of strategies for reducing the volume of water withdrawn from a water supply source, for reducing the loss or waste of water, for maintaining or improving the efficiency in the use of water, for increasing the recycling and reuse of water, and for preventing the pollution of water.

Customer – (Member) Any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the RWSC

Domestic water use – water 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.

Golf course - An area of land laid out for golf with a series of 9 or 18 holes each including tees, fairways, and putting greens and often one or more natural or artificial hazards.

Grey water – Wastewater without fecal contamination generated primarily in households or office buildings from sinks, showers, baths, washing machines or dishwashers. Wastewater from toilets is NOT grey water.

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, and parks.

Non-essential water use – Water uses that are neither essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- Irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;

- Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle;
- Use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard surface areas;
- Use of water to wash down buildings or surfaces for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- Flushing gutters;
- Permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.
- Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi type pools;
- Use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) with a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- Use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting or system maintenance.

Non-Single Family Account – water service for any category besides a Single Family Residence, such as water service to Multi-Family Residence, Industrial, Commercial, Institutional, and/or Agricultural.

Odd numbered address – Street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route number ending is 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

Single Family Residence – A house, or dwelling unit with 4 or less housing units used as a residence with one family housed in each unit.

Variance – Request for additional consideration to allow for more days to water based on new plants, or other circumstances.

Water shortage emergency – A condition in which the ordinary water demands and requirements of the City’s wholesale and retail customers cannot be met without resulting in insufficient water for human consumption, public health (sanitation), and fire protection. A water shortage emergency may be limited geographically or temporally.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE AREA AND UTILITY PROFILE**

RWSC is a rural water supply corporation. It is difficult to determine the exact number of individuals served. Guidelines suggest that each connection be multiplied by 3 to obtain the number of persons served.

The RWSC Certificate of Convenience and Necessity is attached to show the service area.

### **HISTORICAL POPULATION**

Year	Historical Connections Served	Historical Water Sold	Historical Gallons Pumped
2020	858	67.685M	87,770,000
2021	880	65.823M	90,159,200
2022	891	72.022M	94,550,100
2023	887	65.113M	90,598,000

The difference between gallons sold and gallons pumped does not consider water loss for flushing, leaks, and fire protection.

#### 4.1 WATER SUPPLY SOURCE

Ross WSC has three wells in the Trinity Groundwater Aquifer that produced 579 gallons per minute when tested in June, 2023. The Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District controls the amount of water that can be pumped from the Trinity Aquifer. The District was established by the Texas Legislature and took effect in 2010. The Historic Use Permit was based on the three largest water use years before 2010. Ross WSC had to apply for a Non-Historic Use Permit in 2013 because of the growth in our service area. The Non-Historic Use Permit will expire in December, 2033.

Since RWSC is a rural water supply, most of our members are residential with about 10 retail establishments. There are no large factories or industrial facilities in the service area.

Ross WSC contracted with the City of Waco to reserve raw water to supplement its water resources. Ross WSC has the following water sources:

Water Supply Source	Source Type	Total Gallons
Lake Waco	Surface	109,500,000
Trinity Aquifer	Ground	83,567,000
Trinity Aquifer	Ground	26,400,000

For more than 65 years, the RWSC has been committed to providing clean, safe, reliable, high quality, sustainable, and affordable water to its customers. The RWSC owns and operates two water treatment plants (WTPs). Plant # 1 has three storage tanks holding 150,000 gallons of water along with 15,000 gallons of pressure tanks. This plant has two booster pumps with a capacity of 750 gpm each. Plant # 2 has 250,000 gallons of storage tanks along with 10,000 gallons of pressure tanks. The plant has two booster pumps with a capacity of 500 gpm each.

**YEAR-ROUND OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

Effective August 15, 2024, year-round outdoor water conservation measures are structured to use water in the most beneficial and efficient manner to protect the long-term water supply and to achieve conservation goals. These are conservation measures outside of a declared Drought Stage.

**Three Days Per Week Outside Watering Schedule**

<b>Last Digit of Address</b>	<b>Allowed Landscape Water Days</b>
Odd Number (1,3,5,7,9)	Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday
Even Number (0,2,4,6,8)	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
<b>No Water Friday - Storage Recovery</b>	

Apartments, office building complexes, or other properties containing multiple addresses, will be identified by the lowest physical street address number. Where there are no numbers, a number will be assigned by RWSC.

<b>Time-of-Day Watering</b>	Watering Prohibited between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.	
<b>Buried Drip Irrigation</b>	No restrictions but must be buried a minimum of 6 inches	
<b>Handheld Hose</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Drought Stages</b>	When Allowed or Restricted
	<b>Conservation Plan</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human



	action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
<b><i>Drought Stage 1</i></b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
<b><i>Drought Stage 2</i></b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
<b><i>Drought Stage 3</i></b>	Use is only allowed on the users designated water day. Time of day restrictions apply. Must be held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
<b><i>Drought Stage 4</i></b>	Not allowed.
<b>Impervious Surface</b>	Water Use on impervious surfaces - such as washing down a driveway or sidewalk, is discouraged unless for health and safety purposes. Such use is allowed on assigned outside water days and times.
<b>Water Waste/Runoff</b>	Runoff of more than 10 feet from the edge of the property will be considered water waste.

Conserving water and limiting days and time-of-day usage benefits the overall water system and reduces the need for additional infrastructure to meet peak time-of-day usage for irrigation. One of the largest water savings and peak day water use reduction measures is a restriction being adopted that limits irrigation water use to 3-days a week. This code includes time of day restrictions that allow irrigation to occur before 10:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. on the designated day. This schedule allows efficient irrigation methods, buried drip irrigation, to operate with no restrictions. Water hoses held in hand, with an automatic shut off device, can water any day, any time (except in Drought Stage 3 when it would be limited to one day during allowed hours and Drought Stage 4 where it would be prohibited). The code also contains prohibitions on water waste, which includes failing to repair a controllable leak and allowing water to spray or pond on impervious surface more than 10-feet from the landscape being irrigated.

**VARIANCES**

Newly installed landscaping has a different water need than established landscaping. Customers with newly installed landscapes that need additional watering days to become established, must apply for a variance from the mandatory watering schedule. If a variance is approved, the following additional water days will be allowed on the subject property under the following requirements:

<b>Variations</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Drought Stages</b>	<b>MAXIMUM DAYS ALLOWED (from date of plant installation)</b>
	<b>Conservation</b>	60
	<b>Drought Stage 1</b>	45
	<b>Drought Stage 2</b>	30
	<b>Drought Stage 3</b>	0
	<b>Drought Stage 4</b>	0
<b>Plants</b>	Variance can only be used for the plants and area listed in the variance	
<b>Effective Time Frame</b>	A variance will take effect on the date which it is approved by the City. Variance end date will be based on the date of plant installation.	

- Variations can only be utilized for the plants and planting area designated.
- Variations granted will expire upon a declaration of drought or an escalation of the Plan to the next higher Stage or upon termination of the declaration of drought.

RWSC will provide a link to Texas A & M Agrilife for a list of turf grasses that are considered drought tolerant at [wacowater.com](http://wacowater.com). This list is not meant to be all inclusive but is for guidance.

**ATHLETIC FIELDS AND GOLF COURSES**

Additional water use restrictions during year-round conservation include mandatory water plans for all athletic fields and golf courses. These plans are due annually by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and must include an evaluation of how much water is intended to be used, how and who is monitoring, the water meters included in the plan, and how water will be reduced in accordance with water reduction goal in each Drought Stage when Waco declares a Drought Stage. The Director of Water Utilities or designee can deny a plan that does not include appropriate conservation measures and reduction in water usage and waste. **Any athletic field or golf course owner who does not submit a water plan or whose water plan has been denied, will be required to adhere to the Year-Round Outdoor Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Management Plan Measures schedule.**

**Athletic Fields and Golf Courses Conservation Measures**

Annual Water Plan (AWP)	Due October 1, 2024, and October 1st each year thereafter
Water amount and method of evaluation	Amount of water to be used during Year-Round Conservation and for each drought stage. Each Drought Stage water total should be reduced by the minimum percentage amount stated for that stage.
Meter Number	Any meter that measures water on an athletic field or golf course.
Person and method	Who will monitor the plan, their contact information, and how they will monitor the plan to achieve the water reduction
Drought Stage 4	No Outside Watering

## IRRIGATION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

All new automatically controlled irrigation sprinkler systems are required to include sensors or other technology designed to inhibit or interrupt operation of the irrigation system during periods of moisture or rainfall. Rain or moisture shut off technology must be installed in accordance with the manufacturers published recommendations. Repairs to existing automatic irrigation systems that require replacement of an existing controller must include a sensor or other technology designed to inhibit or interrupt operation of the irrigation system during periods of moisture or rainfall (TAC 30, Part 1, Chapter 344, Subchapter F, Paragraph j). Irrigation systems must direct flow away from impervious surfaces. Newly installed irrigation systems must include an isolation valve for the irrigation system.

### Irrigation Sprinkler Systems

New Systems or new operational system	Rain - moisture Sensor/automatic shut off required
Design	Must direct flow away from impervious surfaces
Isolation Valve	New systems must have an isolation valve

### OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAM YEAR-ROUND STRATEGIES

- Outdoor pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. are encouraged to be covered when not in use.
- Hosing of paved surfaces/areas is discouraged except to alleviate an immediate health or safety hazard, or preparation for painting.
- The name(s) listed on the water account will be responsible for all violations involving minors.
- One-or two-day events that utilize water, such as a water slide or charity car wash (by hand), will be allowed through Drought Stage 2.
- Water service may be discontinued if three or more violations occur at a service address within a 30-day period. Service discontinued under such circumstances will be restored only upon payment of (1) the service call fee set by the RWSC Fee Schedule, and (2) any and all penalties incurred by violating the ordinance.
- Grey water use will not be restricted if the system of delivery and configuration conform to the current International Plumbing Code. A grey water system cannot be physically connected to the potable water supply and the grey water system must be installed so that there is no chance of grey water contamination into the public water supply.
- Texas Administrative Code 290.252 requires plumbing fixtures to meet water savings performance standards (290.252(b)) and be on the list of approved fixtures (290.253)
- Each violation will be classified as a misdemeanor and can incur a fine up to \$2,000.00 for each offense. Each violation will be counted as a separate offense. Each day any violation of a city ordinance continues will be a separate offense.

### Ross WSC CONSERVATION MEASURES

- All meters will continue to be a part of a rigorous testing and replacement program.
- Annual water audits to determine water loss will be conducted.
- The RWSC will continue to maintain accurate records of leaks, repairs, flushing, construction, and firefighting exercises.
- RWSC will continue monitoring daily diversion amounts with daily water treatment production to determine water loss prior to distribution. Production amounts will also be compared to metered consumption to determine distribution loss.
- Leaking water lines will continue to be repaired or replaced as quickly as possible. After-hours contractors will continue responding to leaks at all hours. In situations where repair is not immediately possible, water loss will be mitigated by reduction of pressure.
- The RWSC will continue efforts to inform and educate the public on water conservation issues. In addition to year-round efforts, each year, as the high use season of summer approaches, these efforts will be increased and expanded. Just prior to and during the summer months, alerts by text or email, website notices, and notices on monthly bills will notify members of the RWSC Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Management Plans.
- The rate structure will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and adjustments will be made as appropriate.

#### **METHOD FOR TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS**

The following methods will be used to evaluate individual portions of the plan:

- Records regarding meter replacement will be maintained and examined annually. Failure rates, along with “re-read” work orders (orders to re-read a meter are automatically generated whenever there is a high or low discrepancy outside normal variance), leaks and meter/model will be compared to evaluate the replacement cycle.
- Water loss accounting will be evaluated periodically examining multi-year loss trends, with the specific goal of identifying any discrepancies or variances and determining the cause.
- Leak detection and repair will be evaluated annually by examining comprehensive records showing number of leaks, locations, time before repair, estimated loss of water through leak, estimated loss of water through flushing. This information will be compared to water loss information for the same period.
- Public information and education efforts will be evaluated by documenting actions, such as: number of text and email alerts, website notices, and messages on monthly billings.

**RWSC Water Rates**

<b>Monthly minimum rate plus usage</b>			
Minimum Rate is based on meter size			
5/8" meter	\$40.00	Over 50,000	\$12.00 Per 1,000
1" meter	\$100.00		
1.5" meter	\$200.00		
2" meter	\$320.00		
0 - 4,000 Gallons	\$5.00 Per 1,000		
4,001 -6,000 Gallons	\$6.00 Per 1,000		
6,001 -8,000 Gallons	\$8.00 Per 1,000		
8,001 - 20,000 Gallons	\$10.00 Per 1,000		
20,001-50,000 Gallons	\$11.00 Per 1,000		

**AGRICULTURAL WATER USE**

Agricultural use is for the golf course and sports field irrigation, not for irrigation in the production of crops, so no production process is applicable to the RWSC. Therefore, the RWSC does not intend to use state-of-the-art equipment or process modifications to improve water use efficiency. The amount of usage will remain constant.

Plans will be updated as needed and reported to the proper agencies.



# Public Utility Commission of Texas

By These Presents Be It Known To All That

ROSS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

having duly applied for certification to provide water utility service for the convenience and necessity of the public, and it having been determined by this Commission that the public convenience and necessity would in fact be advanced by the provision of such service by this Applicant, is entitled to and is hereby granted this

## Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

numbered 11268, to provide water utility service to that service area or those service areas designated by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders are on file at the Commission offices in Austin, Texas; and are matters of official record available for public inspection;

and be it known further that these presents do evidence the authority and the duty of this Grantee to provide such utility service in accordance with the laws of this State and the Rules of this Commission, subject only to any power and responsibility of this Commission to revoke or amend this Certificate in whole or in part upon a subsequent showing that the public convenience and necessity would be better served thereby.

Issued at Austin, Texas, this 1st day of November, 1979.

*Philip F. Ricketts*

Philip F. Ricketts  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION











## **RWSC Drought Contingency Plan - SECTION I: DECLARATION OF POLICY, PURPOSE, AND INTENT**

The purpose of this Drought Contingency and Emergency Water Management Plan (subsequently referred to as the "Plan") is as follows:

- To conserve the available water supply in times of drought and emergency
- To maintain supplies for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection
- To protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety
- To minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortages
- To minimize the adverse impacts of emergency water supply conditions

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, the Ross Water Supply Corporation (RWSC) hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Plan 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 IX of this plan.

### **SECTION II: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the RWSC by means of a public meeting and by publishing the Plan on the RWSC website. A public notice was provided regarding a public meeting, which was held to accept input on the Plan. Additionally, members were invited to send comments electronically after viewing the Plan online.

### **SECTION III: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND NOTIFICATION**

The RWSC will 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 messages on bills, website updates, text or email alerts, and notices posted within the service area. Upon implementation and/or termination of any stage of the plan, the public will be notified through messages on bills and website updates.

### **SECTION IV: WHOLESALE CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

N/A

### **SECTION V: COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS**

The service area of the RWSC is located within the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. The RWSC has provided a copy of this Plan to the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group and TCEQ.

### **SECTION VI: AUTHORIZATION**

The RWSC Operator 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. When criteria have been met (as described for each Drought Stage), Waco and/or RWSC Operator has the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water

supply emergency response measures described in this Plan. Waco and/or the RWSC Operator will initiate or terminate a drought stage.

The following actions will occur when a stage is initiated or terminated:

- The public will be notified through the RWSC Website and sending text or email alerts.
- Waco will be notify RWSC by telephone with a follow up e-mail that provides the reasons for initiation of the drought or emergency stage and when that stage is terminated by the Director of Water Utility Services or designee.
- The City of Waco Water Utility Department and/or the RWSC Operator will notify the Executive Director of the TCEQ and the local TCEQ office within 5 business days when a drought or emergency stage is activated or terminated.

The Plan may be applied to the RWSC service area, or geographic portions of the service area, as necessary. If the Plan is applied only to a limited area, the boundaries will be defined by roadways, rivers, creeks and other easily distinguishable features.

### **SECTION VII: APPLICATION**

The provisions of this Plan will apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the RWSC. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

### **SECTION VIII: DEFINITIONS**

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

Accounts – all Single Family and all Non-Single Family Accounts, collectively.

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

Athletic field – A developed recreation area that may contain a playground as well as fields for competitive sports such as baseball, softball, football or soccer.

Commercial and institutional water use – Water use, which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments, governmental entities, and retail establishments.

Conservation – Those [triggering conditions] practices, techniques, and technologies greater than the baseline conservation practices, that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses. Baseline conservation practices are those actions expected from customers as good citizens; including, but not limited to:

- Turning off or re-programming automatic sprinkler systems during precipitation events or in soil-saturated conditions;
- Implementing landscape irrigation to maximize impact, e.g., not irrigating in the afternoon or highest evaporative loss hours;

Customer – Any member such as a person, company, or organization using water supplied by the RWSC.

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.

Golf course – an area of land laid out for golf with a series of 9 or 18 holes each including tees, fairways, putting greens and often one or more natural or artificial hazards.

Grey water – Wastewater without fecal contamination generated primarily in households or office buildings from sinks, showers, baths, washing machines or dishwashers. Wastewater from toilets is NOT grey water.

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, and parks.

Mean Sea Level (msl) – The level of the ocean’s surface, especially the level halfway between high and low tide, used as a standard in reckoning land elevation or sea depths.

Non-essential water use – Water uses that are neither 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;
- f) Permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- g) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi- type pools;
- h) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- i) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- j) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting and system maintenance.

Non-Single Family Account – water service for any category besides a Single Family Residence, such as water service to Multi-Family Residence, Commercial, and/or Agricultural.

Odd numbered address – Street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

Plan – the 2024 Water Conservation Drought Contingency Plan, collectively, which will be the water conservation and drought/emergency contingency plan for RWSC, as adopted or hereby amended.

Single Family Account – water service at a Single Family Residence

Single Family Residence – a house, or dwelling unit with 4 or less housing units used as a residence with one family housed in each unit.

User – any person connected to the RWSC water system, including owners and/or occupants of any premises connected to the RWSC system.

Variance – request for additional consideration to allow for more days to water based on new plants or other circumstances.

Water – water taken from any water including raw water, clarified (pretreated) water, or potable (drinking) water.

Water shortage emergency – A condition in which the ordinary water demands and requirements of the Waco wholesale contract and/or RWSC round water cannot be met without resulting in insufficient water for human consumption, public health (sanitation), and fire protection. A water shortage emergency maybe limited geographically or temporally.

## **SECTION IX: CRITERIA FOR INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF DROUGHT/EMERGENCY RESPONSE STAGES**

Waco and/or the RWSC Operator will monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and will determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified triggers are reached.

Criteria triggering the implementation of various stages of the Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Management Plan, include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. General, geographical, or weather related condition or emergency, including but not limited to drought conditions resulting in a decrease in the Lake Waco reservoir level
2. Water system failures/emergencies (i.e., pressure zone deficiencies, chemical spills, broken water mains, power outages, electrical failures, failures of storage tanks or other equipment, treatment plant breakdown, and water contamination)
3. An inability to recover approximately ninety (90) percent of water stored in all Storage facilities within a defined period
4. A catastrophic decrease in the Lake Waco reservoir level and/or delivery capabilities resulting in an inability, presently or in the immediate future, to recover resources sufficient to provide services necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare

The level of the Lake Waco reservoir shall be determined based on the official reading by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and stated as an elevation above mean sea level (msl).

## **TRIGGERING STAGES, RESPONSES AND GOALS**

Generally, should a water shortage emergency occur, Waco and/or the RWSC Operator may exercise his or her discretion to: (1) request special voluntary water restrictions, (2) initiate Stages 1 - 4 mandatory restrictions, and/or (3) prohibit wastage and restrict certain uses of water deemed nonessential

during the emergency. Initiation of a specific Stage is dependent on climatic and water system conditions and does NOT necessarily require a progression from Stage One through Stage Three to reach Stage Four.

Pro rata curtailment of water delivery to RWSC as provided in Texas WaterCode, §11.039, may be triggered by criteria within or without the plan and may be implemented during any stage of the plan.

The City of Waco has no alternative source of water from which to draw or make use of as a water supply management measure during a water shortage.

**Stage 1 Triggers – MILD Water Shortage**

Criteria for implementation of Stage 1. Waco and/or the RWSC Operator will implement stage 1 restrictions when any of the following conditions exist:

- The Lake Waco reservoir level decreases to 457msl (at which the reservoir is at about 80% of its capacity); or
- Weather forecasts and stream flow conditions, in the opinion of the city manager, warrant restrictions on the use of water; or
- Other unforeseen events, such as a water treatment plant, pipe or pump failure or source of supply contamination that necessitates the public’s participation in a reduction of water usage.

Criteria for termination – Stage 1 will be terminated at the discretion of Waco and/or the RWSC Operator but may be based on:

- An increase in the level of Lake Waco; or
- Weather forecast and stream flow conditions that, in the opinion of the city manager, warrant removal of restrictions on the use of water; or
- The ending of unforeseen events that necessitated the public’s participation in water restrictions, such as repairs made to plant and line repairs.

**Stage 1 Responses**

Mandatory restrictions – Upon implementation by Waco and/or the RWSC Operator, the following restrictions shall apply unless specifically exempted:

1. The RWSC will reduce use of water for member purposes by
  - Submittal of a water plan that includes following the mandated day and times allowed for watering and meeting the water reduction goal.
2. The city will monitor “excessive watering” and issue notifications to customers.
3. Criminal penalties apply during Stage 1 restrictions.
4. All landscape and other outdoor water usage at each service address shall be limited to two days a week based on the last digit in the physical street address; however, landscape and outdoor water usage is prohibited from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Last Digit of Address	Allowed Landscape Water Days
Odd	Sunday and Friday
Even	Monday and Saturday

**No Watering Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Storage Recovery Day**

<b>Time-of-Day Watering</b>	Watering Prohibited between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.	
<b>Buried Drip Irrigation</b>	No restrictions but must be buried a minimum of 6 inches	
<b>Handheld Hose</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Drought Stages</b>	When Allowed or Restricted
	<b>Conservation Plan</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 1</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 2</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 3</b>	Use is only allowed on the users designated water day. Time of day restrictions apply. Must be held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 4</b>	Not allowed.
<b>Impervious Surface</b>	Water Use on impervious surfaces - such as washing down a driveway or sidewalk, is discouraged unless for health and safety purposes. Such use is allowed on assigned outside water days and times.	
<b>Water Waste/Runoff</b>	Runoff of more than 10 feet from the edge of the property will be considered water waste.	

5. Apartments, office building complexes, or other properties containing multiple addresses, will be identified by the lowest physical street address number. Where there are no numbers, a number will be assigned by the RWSC.



6. Variances will be reduced to 45 days for newly installed plants. All other variance requirements in the Conservation Plan remain in effect.
7. Golf course landscape watering and Athletic Field watering must adhere to the water plan that was submitted or adhere to the twice a week water schedule.
8. Washing down of impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, or buildings is discouraged and is only allowed on outside watering days and times per Stage 1 Drought water restrictions.
9. Any other measure that Waco and/or the RWSC Operator determines is necessary and in the best interest of the public to maintain an adequate water supply.

### **Stage 1 Goal**

Reduction of previous three-year average daily use by 1%

### **Stage 2 Triggers – MODERATE Water Shortage**

Criteria for implementation of Stage 2. Waco and/or the RWSC Operator will implement stage 2 restrictions when any of the following conditions exist:

- The Lake Waco reservoir level decreases to 452 msl (at which the reservoir is at about 60% of its capacity); or
- There is an inability to recover approximately ninety (90) percent of water stored in all storage facilities within a twenty-four (24) hour period; or
- Weather forecasts and stream flow conditions, in the opinion of the city manager, warrant restrictions on the use of water; or
- Other unforeseen events, such as a water treatment plant, pipe or pump failure, or source of supply contamination that necessitates the public's participation in a reduction of water usage.

Criteria for termination – Stage 2 will be terminated at the discretion of the Waco and/or the RWSC Operator but may be based on:

- An increase in the level of Lake Waco; or
- An ability to recover ninety (90) percent of water stored in all storage facilities within a twenty-four (24) hour period; or
- Weather forecast and stream flow conditions that, in the opinion of the city manager, warrant removal of restrictions on the use of water; or
- The ending of unforeseen events that necessitated the public's participation in water restrictions.

### **Stage 2 Responses**

Mandatory restrictions – Upon implementation by the city, the following restrictions shall apply unless specifically exempted:

1. The Waco and/or RWSC will reduce use of water for municipal purposes by
  - Submittal of a water plan that includes following the mandated day and times allowed for watering and meeting the water reduction goal.
  - Reduced hours for such things as spray parks.

2. The RWSC will monitor “excessive watering” and issue notifications to customers. “Excessivewatering” occurs where run-off extends for a distance greater than ten (10) feet from the customer’s property or where there is washing or hosing down of buildings, sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking surfaces or other paved surfaces.
3. Criminal penalties apply.
4. All landscape and other outdoor water usage at each service address shall be limited to two days a week based on the last digit in the physical street address; however, landscape and outdoor water usage is prohibited from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

<b>Last Digit of Address</b>	<b>Allowed Landscape Water Days</b>
Odd	Sunday and Friday
Even	Monday and Saturday
<b>No Watering Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Storage Recovery Day</b>	

<b>Time-of-Day Watering</b>	Watering Prohibited between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.	
<b>Buried Drip Irrigation</b>	No restrictions but must be buried a minimum of 6 inches	
<b>Handheld Hose</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Drought Stages</b>	When Allowed or Restricted
	<b>Conservation Plan</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 1</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 2</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 3</b>	Use is only allowed on the users designated water day. Time of day restrictions apply. Must be held in hand and automatic shut off devise such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used

	<b>Drought Stage 4</b>	Not allowed.
<b>Impervious Surface</b>	Water Use on impervious surfaces - such as washing down a driveway or sidewalk, is discouraged unless for health and safety purposes. Such use is allowed on assigned outside water days and times.	
<b>Water Waste/Runoff</b>	Runoff of more than 10 feet from the edge of the property will be considered water waste.	

5. Apartments, office building complexes, or other properties containing multiple addresses, will be identified by the lowest physical street address number. Where there are no numbers, a number will be assigned by the RWSC.
6. Criminal penalties apply during Stage 2 restrictions.
7. Watering of newly installed landscaping variances is reduced to 30 days from the date of planting. After the first month, the landscape water day's schedule and hourly restrictions must be followed. All other variance requirements in the Conservation Plan remain in effect.
8. Golf course landscape watering and Athletic Field watering must adhere to the water plan that was submitted or adhere to the twice a week watering schedule.
9. Washing down of impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, or buildings is discouraged and is only allowed on outside watering days and times per Drought Stage 2 water restrictions. Any other measure that Waco and/or the RWSC Operator determines is necessary and in the best interest of the public to maintain an adequate water supply.
10. Conservation Rates take effect.

**Residential Conservation Rates**

Volumes	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
0-4000 gallons	No change	No change	No change	No change
4,001-8,000 gal	No change	No change	No change	No change
8,001 – 20,000 gal	No change	No change	10% increase	20% increase
20,001 – 50,000 gal	No change	10% increase	20% increase	25% increase
50,001 + gal	No change	20% increase	40% increase	50% increase

**Irrigation Conservation Rates**

0-25,000 gallons	No change	10% increase	20% increase	25% increase
25,001 + gallons	No change	20% increase	40% increase	50% increase

**Stage 2 Goal**

Reduction of previous three-year average daily use by 2% November – March and 8% April – October.

**Stage 3 Triggers – SEVERE Water Shortage**

Criteria for implementation of Stage 3. The Waco and/or the RWSC will implement stage 3 restrictions when any of the following conditions exist:

- The Lake Waco reservoir level to 449 msl (at which the reservoir is at about 50% of its capacity); or
- There is an inability to recover approximately ninety (90) percent of water stored in all storage facilities within a twenty-four (24) hour period.
- Weather forecasts and stream flow conditions, in the opinion of the city manager, warrant restrictions on the use of water; or
- The total amount of water available, as determined by the water utilities director, to the city from its developed water sources is less than a 24-month supply; or
- Other unforeseen events, such as a water treatment plant, pipe or pump failure, or source of supply contamination that necessitate the public’s participation in a reduction of water usage.

Criteria for Termination – Stage 3 will be terminated at the discretion of Waco and/or the RWSC Operator and may be based on:

- An increase in the level of Lake Waco; or
- An ability to recover ninety (90) percent of water stored in all storage facilities within a twenty-four (24) hour period; or
- Weather forecast and stream flow conditions that, in the opinion of the city manager, warrant removal of restrictions on the use of water; or
- An increase in the total amount of water available; or
- The ending of unforeseen events that necessitated the public’s participation in water restrictions.

**Stage 3 Responses**

Mandatory restrictions – Upon implementation by the Waco and/or the RWSC Operator, the following restrictions will apply unless specifically exempted:

1. RWSC will reduce use of water for operational purposes by
  - a. Submittal of a water plan that includes following the mandated day and times allowed for watering and meeting the water reduction goal.
  - b. Reduced hours for such things as spray parks.
2. RWSC will monitor “excessive watering” and issue notifications to customers. “Excessive watering” occurs where run-off extends for a distance greater than ten (10) feet from the customer’s property or where there is washing or hosing down of buildings, sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking surfaces or other paved surfaces.
3. Criminal penalties apply during Stage 3 restrictions.
4. All landscape and outdoor water usage at each physical street address shall continue according to the landscape water days schedule identified below (1 day a week); however, landscape and outdoor water usage is prohibited from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

<b>Last Digit Address:</b>	<b>Allowed Landscape Water Day</b>
0, 1	Monday
2, 3	Tuesday
4, 5	Wednesday
6, 7	Thursday

8, 9	Friday
Saturday and Sunday - No Watering, Storage Recovery days	

<b>Time-of-Day Watering</b>	Watering Prohibited between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.	
<b>Buried Drip Irrigation</b>	No restrictions but must be buried a minimum of 6 inches	
<b>Handheld Hose</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Drought Stages</b>	When Allowed or Restricted
	<b>Conservation Plan</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 1</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 2</b>	No restrictions if held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 3</b>	Use is only allowed on the users designated water day. Time of day restrictions apply. Must be held in hand and automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) to dispense water is used
	<b>Drought Stage 4</b>	Not allowed.
<b>Impervious Surface</b>	Washing down or hosing down of impervious surfaces such as buildings, sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking areas or other paved surfaces is prohibited.	
<b>Water Waste/Runoff</b>	Runoff of more than 10 feet from the edge of the property will be considered water waste.	

5. Watering by handheld hose with an automatic shut off device such as a hose-end nozzle or sprayer that requires continuous human action (such as squeezing of a lever) is permitted on the water day and times reflected above. Buried drip irrigation is still permitted as long as it is buried at least 6 inches deep.
6. Apartments, office building complexes, or other property containing multiple addresses will be identified by the lowest physical address number. Where there are no numbers, a number will be assigned by RWSC.
7. No variances for newly installed plantings will be given.
8. Existing swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, ornamental ponds and fountains may be replenished with a handheld hose to maintain operation only.
9. Filling of new swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, ornamental ponds or fountain construction is prohibited, except that those under construction at the time Stage 3 restrictions are initiated may complete construction and may be filled one time only. Filling occurs when an amount of water equal to at least seventy-five (75) percent of the water capacity is placed in the structure or facility.
10. Excessive water run-off from any landscaped area onto streets, alleys, or parking lots is prohibited. Run-off is excessive when it extends for a distance greater than ten (10) feet from the customer's property.
11. Washing or hosing down buildings, sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking areas, or other paved surfaces is prohibited.
12. Commercial car washes will not be allowed to operate during Drought Stage 3.
13. Use of water from fire hydrants is prohibited except for firefighting and health and safety related activities.
14. Any other measure that Waco and/or RWSC Operator determines is necessary and in the best interest of the public to maintain an adequate water supply.
15. Conservation Rates take effect.

### Residential Conservation Rates

Volumes	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
0-4000 gallons	No change	No change	No change	No change
4,001-8,000 gal	No change	No change	No change	No change
8,001 – 20,000 gal	No change	No change	10% increase	20% increase
20,001 – 50,000 gal	No change	10% increase	20% increase	25% increase
50,001 + gal	No change	20% increase	40% increase	50% increase

### Irrigation Conservation Rates

0-25,000 gallons	No change	10% increase	20% increase	25% increase
25,001 + gallons	No change	20% increase	40% increase	50% increase

### Exceptions:

- Commercial landscape nurseries are exempt from Stage 3 restrictions (except for restrictions on hours when watering may occur), but all such nurseries will cease using water to clean pavement and sidewalk areas except for health and safety reasons.
- Golf course landscape watering and Athletic Field watering must adhere to the water plan that they submitted or adhere to the once-a-week watering.

### **Stage 3 Goal**

Reduction of previous three-year average daily use by 2% November – March and 15% from April – October.

### **Stage 4 Triggers – EMERGENCY Water Shortage**

1. Requirements for implementation of Stage 4. Waco and/or RWSC Operator will implement stage 4 restrictions when any of the following conditions exist:
  - The Lake Waco reservoir level to 445 msl (at which the reservoir is at about 40% of its capacity); or
  - There is a determination by Waco of catastrophically decreasing lake reservoir levels and/or delivery capabilities with an inability to recover to provideservices necessary for public health, safety, and welfare exist; or
  - Weather forecasts and stream flow conditions, in the opinion of Waco, warrant restrictions on the use of water; or
  - The total amount of water available, as determined by the water utilities director, to the city from its developed water sources is less than a 12-month supply; or
  - Other unforeseen events, such as a water treatment plant, pipe or pump failure, or source of supply contamination that necessitate the public’s participation in a reduction of water usage; or
2. Criteria for termination – Stage 4 will be terminated at the discretion of Waco and/or RWSC Operator and may be based on:
  - An increase in the level of Lake Waco; or
  - An improvement in delivery capabilities and ability to provide services necessary for public health, safety, and welfare; or
  - Weather forecast and stream flow conditions that, in the opinion Waco, warrant removal of restrictions on the use of water; or
  - An increase in the total amount of water available; or
  - The ending of unforeseen events that necessitated the public’s participation in water restrictions

### **Stage 4 Responses**

Mandatory restrictions – Upon implementation by Waco and/or RWSC Operator, the following restrictions shall apply unless specifically exempted:

1. Any and all outdoor/landscaping water usage is prohibited until the emergency is alleviated. This applies to all metered water users using Waco’s and/or RWSC’s public water supply and includes all residential (single or multi-family), commercial (car wash, nurseries, business), recreational (public/private golf courses, parks, athletic fields), religious, health care, school and municipal entities. This applies to watering with a handheld hose and drip irrigation.
2. Use of water for municipal purposes will be limited to only those activities necessary to maintain the public health, safety and welfare, as determined by the city.
3. Use of water from fire hydrants is prohibited except for firefighting and health and safety related activities.
4. Any other measure that Waco and/or RWSC Operator determines is necessary and in the best interest

- of the public to maintain an adequate water supply.
- Conservation Rates take effect.

**Residential Conservation Rates**

Volumes	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
0-4,000 gallons	No change	No change	No change	No change
4,001-8,000 gal	No change	No change	No change	No change
8,001 – 20,000 gal	No change	No change	10% increase	20% increase
20,001 – 50,000 gal	No change	10% increase	20% increase	25% increase
50,001 + gal	No change	20% increase	40% increase	50% increase

**Irrigation Conservation Rates**

0-25,000 gallons	No change	10% increase	20% increase	25% increase
25,001 + gallons	No change	20% increase	40% increase	50% increase

**Stage 4 Goal**

Reduction of previous three-year average daily use by 5% November – March and 20% April – October. Waco and/or RWSC Operator can set a goal for greater water use reduction as circumstances warrant.

**SECTION X: ENFORCEMENT**

- No person shall intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence allow the use of water from the city for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Division or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by Waco and/or RWSC, in accordance with provisions of this Division.
- Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of Waco and/pr RWSC, 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 rebuttable 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.
- The account holder will be responsible for violations that occur on the property, even if the account holder does not physically reside at or on the property. Proof that the notices required under Section 26-94 have been given shall constitute a rebuttal presumption that the person has knowledge of and/or is aware of the declaration of a drought or emergency contingency stage, but such presumption may be rebutted by evidence that the person was out of city at the time of the declaration and could not reasonably have become aware of the declaration since returning to the city.
- Any person who violates this Division is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine as provided in Section 1-14, General Penalty. Each day that one or more of the provisions in this plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense.
- If a person is observed, on at least two occasions during Drought/Emergency Stage 2 through Stage 4, violating any water restrictions established for the applicable



Drought/Emergency Stage, Waco and/or RWSC shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur.

6. A citation may be written for violating the time of day or day usage by a customer. The citation will be issued to the account holder in such instances.
7. If a person is convicted of three (3) or more distinct violations of this Division, the RWSC shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur.
8. Water service may be discontinued if three or more violations occur at a service address within a 30-day period. Service discontinued under such circumstances will be restored only upon payment of: (1) the Service Call Fee set out in the RWSC Fee Schedule, and (2) any and all penalties incurred by violating the ordinance. In addition, suitable assurance must be given to the RWSC that the same action shall not be repeated while the plan is in effect.
9. The RWSC is entitled to pursue all other criminal and civil remedies to which it is entitled under statutes or other ordinances. Compliance with this Division may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court.

**SECTION XI: VARIANCES**

A customer may file an application for a variance from this plan for the property receiving water service with the RWSC. RWSC may determine the proper information and require that the applicant provide such information to evaluate the variance request.

The RWSC may grant a variance from the Plan upon his/her determination that special circumstances exist that upon strict enforcement of the plan will adversely affect the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the applicant.

<b>Variances</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Drought Stages</b>	<b>MAXIMUM DAYS ALLOWED (from date of plant installation)</b>
	Conservation	60
	Drought Stage 1	45
	Drought Stage 2	30
	Drought Stage 3	0
	Drought Stage 4	0
<b>Plants</b>	Variance can only be used for the plants and area listed in the variance	
<b>Effective Time Frame</b>	A variance will take effect on the date which it is approved by the RWSC	
	Variance end date will be based on the date of plant installation.	

- Newly installed landscaping has a different water need than established landscaping. Customers with newly installed landscaping that need additional watering days to become established, must apply for a variance from the mandatory watering schedule. If a

variance is approved, the following additional water days will be allowed on the subject property under the following requirements:

- Variances can only be utilized for the plants and planting area designated.
- Variances granted will expire upon a declaration of drought or an escalation of the Plan to the next higher Stage or upon termination of the declaration of drought.

RWSC will provide a link to Texas A & M Agrilife for a list of turf grasses that are considered drought tolerant at [wacowater.com](http://wacowater.com). This list is not meant to be all inclusive but is for guidance.

**ATHLETIC FIELDS AND GOLF COURSES**

Additional water use restrictions during year-round conservation include mandatory water plans for all athletic fields and golf courses. These plans are due annually by October 1st of each year and must include an evaluation of how much water is intended to be used, how and who is monitoring, the water meters included in the plan, and how water will be reduced in accordance with water reduction goal in each Drought Stage when Waco and/or RWSC Operator declares a Drought Stage. The Director of Water Utilities or designee can deny a plan that does not include appropriate conservation measures and reduction in water usage and waste. **Any athletic field or golf course owner who does not submit a water plan will be required to adhere to the Year- Round Outdoor Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Management Plan Measures schedule.**

**Athletic Fields and Golf Courses Conservation Measures**

Annual Water Plan (AWP)	Due October 1, 2024, and October 1st each year thereafter
Water Amount and method of evaluation	Amount of Water to be used during Year-Round Conservation and for each drought stage. Each Drought Stage water total should be reduced by the minimum percentage amount stated for that stage.
Meter Number	Any meter that measures water on an athletic field or golf course.
Person and method	Who will monitor the plan, their contact information, and how they will monitor the plan to achieve the water reduction
Drought Stage 4	No Outside Watering

**SECTION XII: STATE MANDATED WATER RESTRICTIONS**

1. If a State agency with jurisdiction over water rights and use lawfully orders that drought response restrictions on water usage be imposed, the water restrictions will be implemented, regardless of whether any of the criteria for implementation stated in Sec. 26-97 or Sec. 26-98 have been met.
2. Waco and/or RWSC Operator will notify the public of the implementation of the state mandated restrictions as provided in Sec. 26-94. Said notice will set out the specific restrictions to be implemented.

3. No person will intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence allow the use of water from the city for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner:
  - a. Contrary to the notice issued under subsection 2 above; or
  - b. Contrary to the state mandated restriction; or
  - c. In excess of state mandated usage limits.
4. If a violation of the mandated restriction occurs, notice of the violation may be given as provided in Sec. 26-95 and the violation may be punished as provided in Sec. 26-96.

