

**SECTION H.**  
**DROUGHT CONTINGENCY**  
**AND**  
**EMERGENCY WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The goal of this plan is to cause a reduction in water use in response to drought or emergency conditions so that the water availability can be preserved. Since emergency conditions can occur rapidly, responses must also be enacted quickly. This plan has been prepared in advance considering conditions that will initiate and terminate the rationing program.

A Drought/Emergency Management Committee consisting of two Board Members and the System Manager will monitor usage patterns and public education efforts and will make recommendations to the Board on future conservation efforts, demand management procedures or any changes to this plan. The Committee will develop public awareness notices, bill stuffers, and other methods that will begin and continue as a constant type of reminder that water should be conserved at all times, not just during a drought or emergency. This Committee will also review and evaluate any needed amendments or major changes due to changes in the WSC service area population, distribution system or supply. This review and evaluation will be done on a regular basis of five years unless conditions necessitate more frequent amendments.

The plan will be implemented according to the three stages of rationing as imposed by the Board. Section D describes the conditions that will trigger these stages.

**2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the Board by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan. Notice of the meeting was provided to all customers. In the adoption of this plan, the Board considered all comments from customers.

**3. COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP**

Being located within the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L), a copy of this Plan has been provided to that Regional Water Planning Group.

**4. TRIGGER CONDITIONS**

The Drought Emergency Management Committee is responsible for monitoring water supply and demand conditions on a monthly basis (or more frequently if conditions warrant) and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan, that is, when the specified triggers are reached. The Committee will monitor current sources of Springs Hill water and respond to conditions described below take into consideration: the vulnerability of the water source under drought

of record conditions; the production, treatment and distribution capacities of the system, and member usage based upon historical patterns.

**See [springshill.org](http://springshill.org) for the current Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan**

## **5. STAGE LEVELS OF WATER ALOCATIONS**

**See [springshill.org](http://springshill.org) for the current Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan**

## **6. INITIATION AND TERMINATION PROCEDURES**

Once a trigger condition occurs, the Corporation, or its designated responsible representative, shall, based on recommendation from the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee, decide if the appropriate stage of rationing shall be initiated. The initiation may be delayed if there is a reasonable possibility the water system performance will not be compromised by the condition. If water allocation is to be instituted, written notice to the customers shall be given.

Written notice of the proposed water allocation measure shall be mailed or delivered to each affected customer upon the initiation of each stage. In addition, upon adoption of Stage II or greater, a notice will be placed in a local newspaper and/or announced on a local radio or television station. The customer notice shall contain the following information:

- a. The date water allocation shall begin,
- b. The expected duration if applicable,
- c. The stage (level) of water allocations to be employed,
- d. Penalty for violations of the water allocation program, and
- e. Affected area or areas.

A sample Customer Notice of water allocation conditions is included in Miscellaneous Transaction Forms of this tariff.

If the water allocation program extends 30 days then the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee or manager shall present the reasons for the allocations at the next scheduled Board Meeting and shall request the concurrence of the Board to extend the allocation period.

When the trigger condition no longer exists then the responsible official may terminate the water allocations provided that such an action is based on sound judgment. Written notice of the end of allocations shall be given to customers. A water allocation period may not exceed 60 days without extension by action of the Board.

## **7. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

- a. **First Violation** – The customer/member will be notified by a written notice of their specific violation and their need to comply with the tariff rules. The notice will show the amount of penalty \* to be assessed for continued violations.
- b. **Second Violation** - The Corporation will assess a penalty \* of \$ 75.00.
- c. **Subsequent Violations** - The Corporation will assess an additional penalty \* of \$150.00 for

violations continuing after the Second Violation. The Corporation may also install a flow restricting device in the customer's meter service to limit the amount of water that will pass through the meter in a 24 hour period. The costs of this procedure will be for the actual work and equipment and shall be paid by the customer.

- d. Termination** – The Corporation will terminate service for up to 7 days for continuing violations under this section. Service will remain off until any delinquent penalty \* or other assessment is fully paid including a charge for the service call to restore service.

**These provisions apply to all customers of the Corporation.**

**NOTE: PENALTY \*** -- A WSC is allowed to charge a reasonable penalty to customers that fail to comply with the Rationing Procedures in accordance with TAC 291.41 (j) if:

- (1) the penalty is clearly stated in the tariff;
- (2) the penalty is reasonable and does not exceed six (6) times the minimum monthly bill stated in the water supply corporation's current tariff; and
- (3) the water supply corporation has deposited the penalty in a separate account dedicated to enhancing water supply for the benefit of all the water supply corporation's customers.

**8. EXEMPTIONS OR WAIVERS**

The Drought/Emergency Management Committee may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health or sanitation for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a.** Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- b.** Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the Drought/Emergency Management Committee within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked or after a condition justifying the variance first occurs. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Committee and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Plan.
- Description of the relief requested.
- Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- Other pertinent information, as requested by the Committee.

Variances granted by the Committee shall be subject to the following conditions, unless specifically waived or modified by the Committee or Board of Directors:

- Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- Variances granted shall expire when the water allocation is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements. No variance allowed for a condition requiring water allocation will continue beyond the termination of water allocation under Section F. Any variance for a subsequent water allocation must be petitioned again. The fact that a variance has been granted in response to a petition will have no relevance to the Committee's decision on any subsequent petition.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Board establishes a Drought/Emergency Management Committee by Resolution, the chairperson of which will be the responsible representative to make Drought and Emergency Water Management actions. This Committee will review the procedures in this plan annually or more frequently. Modifications may be required to accommodate system growth, changes in water use demand, available water supply and/or other circumstances.

This Plan was adopted by the Board at a properly noticed meeting held on April 28, 2009.