

Drought Contingency Plan

EAGLE PASS WATER WORKS SYSTEM
2107 VETERANS BLVD
EAGLE PASS, TX 78852
PWS# 1620001 CN# 602520165

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Section I: Introduction

This document is the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) for the City of Eagle Pass Water Works System (EPWWS). The DCP was created by EPWWS to cut back demand when supplies are low and to ensure there’s enough water to make it through a drought. The DCP clearly explains the triggers initiated by a drought and the steps to be taken during each stage of a drought.

There is also information in the DCP which explains the steps to be taken in a water emergency, such as when supplies are cut off or contaminated. The DCP has been prepared in accordance with Texas Administrative Code Title 30 Chapter 288 Subchapter B Rule §288.20 for Municipal Uses by Public Water Suppliers.

Section II: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

In order to conserve the water supply, protect the integrity of water supply facilities with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the EPWWS hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water through adoption of the DCP by City of Eagle Pass – Code of Ordinance.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under the DCP 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 X of the DCP.

Section III: Public Education

The EPWWS will periodically provide the public with information about the DCP, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the DCP 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 the local newspaper, social media, and EPWWS website.

Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of the EPWWS is located within the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M), and a copy of the DCP has been provided to the Region M Group. EPWWS shall review and update, as appropriate, the DCP at least every five years based on new or updated information, such as the adoption or revision of the regional water plan.

Section V: Authorization

The City of Eagle Pass Water Works System Board of Directors, through the General Manager, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of the DCP upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The General Manager, or his/her designee, shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in the DCP.

Section VI: Application

The provisions of the DCP shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the EPWWS. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the DCP include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations and all other legal entities.

Section VII: Definitions

For the purpose of the DCP, the following definitions shall apply:

- *Aesthetic Water Use*: Water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools and water gardens.
- *Commercial and Institutional Water Use*: Water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and nonprofit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants and office buildings.
- *Conservation*: Those practices, techniques and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.
- *Customer*: Any person, company, or organization using water supplied by EPWWS.
- *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.
- *Odd Number Address*: Street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 and locations without addresses.
- *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 use for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and right-of-way and medians.
- Rated plant capacity: Total capacity of operating treatment plant (15MGD)
- Non-essential Water Use: Water use that is not essential or 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 the DCP;
 - 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 surfaced areas;
 - Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
 - Flushing gutters or 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) within 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.

Section VIII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The General Manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the DCP, that is, when the specified "triggers" are reached. The triggering criteria described below are based on known system capacity limits.

Utilization of alternative water sources and/or alternative delivery mechanisms:

Limits will be set on water use for both commercial and residential users. All customers will be notified of penalties for exceeding water use limits or violation of the DCP.

- **Stage 1 Triggers -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for Initiation:

Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses when:

- Daily water demand exceeds 85% (16,150,000 gallons per day) of the rated plant capacity for three consecutive days.

OR

- Distribution pressure remains below 45 psi for more than six (6) consecutive days.

OR

- Level of Amistad Dam falls below 30% of reservoir storage capacity.

Requirements for Termination:

The EPWWS Board of Directors will determine when drought or emergency conditions have downgraded or expired based on the criteria identified in the DCP. At their direction, the EPWWS General Manager will downgrade to the appropriate action level or cancel all existing plan actions.

- **Stage 2 Triggers -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for Initiation:

Customers are strongly encourage to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 2 of the DCP when:

- Daily water demand exceeds 90% (17,100,000 gallons per day) of the rated plant capacity for three consecutive days.

OR

- Distribution pressure remains below 43 psi for more than six (6) consecutive days.

OR

- Level of Amistad Dam falls below 25% of reservoir storage capacity.

Requirements for Termination:

The EPWWS Board of Directors will determine when drought or emergency conditions have downgraded or expired based on the criteria identified in the DCP. At their direction, the EPWWS General Manager will downgrade to the appropriate action level or cancel all existing plan actions.

- **Stage 3 Triggers -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for Initiation:

It is mandatory for customers to conserve water and comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 3 of the DCP when:

- Daily water demand exceeds 95% (18,050,00 gallons per day) of the rated plant capacity for three consecutive days.

OR

- Distribution pressure remains below 40 psi for more than six (6) consecutive days.

OR

- Level of Amistad Dam falls below 20% of reservoir storage capacity.

OR

- Contamination of the supply source

OR

- System outage due to the failure or damage of major water system components (e.g. raw water pumps, scada system)

Requirements for Termination:

The EPWWS Board of Directors will determine when drought or emergency conditions have downgraded or expired based on the criteria identified in the DCP. At their direction, the EPWWS General Manager will downgrade to the appropriate action level or cancel all existing plan actions.

Section IX: Drought Response Stages

The General Manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of the DCP, shall determine that a mild, moderate, or severe water shortage condition exists and shall implement the following notification procedures:

Notification of the Public:

The General Manager or his/her designee shall notify the public for every change in drought stage status by any or all of the following:

- EPWWS Website (www.epwaterworks.org)
- Local Newspaper
- Social Media
- Local Radio Station
- Letters

Additional Notification:

The General Manger, or his/her designee, shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

- Major water users (KTTT, EPISD, Housing Authority, etc.)
- TCEQ (Only for Moderate or Severe Conditions) – Note: TCEQ MUST be informed within five (5) business days of mandatory water use restrictions being imposed.

Stage 1 Response -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Target:

Achieve a 5% reduction in daily water demand with the water use restrictions below:

- Customers are requested to voluntarily limit irrigation such that customers with even numbered addresses water on odd numbered days of the month and customers with odd numbered addresses water on even numbered days of the month.
- In all cases watering is requested to occur only between the hours of 6 - 9 AM and 9PM - 12 AM.
- Major commercial water users are requested to voluntarily reduce water use.
- During winter months, water users are requested to insulate pipes rather than running water to prevent freezing.
- Continue normal practice of utilizing reclaimed water for irrigation of golf course, as available.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

EPWWS will enact voluntary measures to reduce daily water demand.

Stage 2 Response -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Target:

Achieve a 10% reduction in daily water demand with the water use restrictions below:

- All restrictions from preceding stage will continue.
- Car washing, window washing, and pavement washing is prohibited except when a bucket is used.
- The following uses of public water are prohibited when not essential for public health or safety:
 - Street washing
 - Water hydrant flushing
 - Filling swimming pools
 - Athletic fields watering
- If not adhering to current restrictions, a fine may be imposed.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

EPWWS will discontinue the flushing of water mains wherever possible, and use more repair crews if necessary to allow for a quicker response time for water line leak repair.

Stage 3 Response -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions:

Target:

Achieve a 15% reduction in daily water demand with the water use restrictions below:

- All restrictions from preceding stage will continue.
- ALL outdoor water use is BANNED
- Limits will be set on water use for both commercial and residential users.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

EPWWS will enact mandatory water measures to reduce daily water demand.

All actions from preceding stages will continue.

EPWWS personnel will begin monitoring customers are in compliance with Stage 2 restrictions during the course of their daily rounds.

Section X: Enforcement

- All customers will be notified of penalties for exceeding water use limits or violation of the DCP.
- Any person who shall violate any of these provisions shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- Any person whose name is on file with EPWWS as the customer on the water account for the property where the violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator.

Section XI: Variances

The General Manager, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under the DCP, if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

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

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions listed shall file a petition for variance with the EPWWS within five (5) days after the DCP or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the General Manager, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).

- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provision(s) of the DCP from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the DCP adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with the DCP.
- 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 the DCP and the compliance date.
- Other pertinent information.

Variations granted by the EPWW shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the General Manager or his/her designee:

- Variations granted shall include a timetable for compliance
- Variations granted shall expire when the DCP is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.
- No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of the DCP occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.