

## **SECTION H. Of BWSC TARIFF EMERGENCY WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND EMERGENCY RATIONING PROGRAM**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The goal of this plan is to cause a reduction in water use in response to 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 Conservation Committee consisting of the Manager's and Field Supervisor will monitor usage patterns, public education efforts and make recommendations to the Board on future conservation efforts. 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 an emergency. This Committee will 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 Corporation adopts the following priorities in the distribution of available water resources:

- a. Domestic indoor water usage only for drinking, bathing, cooking, hygiene, etc.
- b. Domestic indoors water usage *plus* livestock and domesticated animals.
- c. Domestic indoors water usage *plus* livestock and domesticated animals *plus* a reasonable amount of outdoor usage, i, e, car washing, watering house foundations, flower beds with drip or leaky pipe irrigation
- d. Domestic indoors water usage *plus* livestock and domesticated animals *plus* a reasonable amount of outdoor usage defined above *plus* spray irrigation of lawns and residential yards not to exceed one-third acre
- e. Domestic indoors water usage *plus* livestock and domesticated animals *plus* a reasonable amount of outdoor usage defined above *plus* spray irrigation of commercial properties, ball fields, parks and residential yards exceeding one-third acre

Water rationing restrictions are automatically waived during emergencies such as fire fighting or a situation endangering human life.

Water rationing will be implemented according to the three stages of rationing as imposed by the Board. The next section describes the conditions, which will trigger these stages.

### **2. TRIGGER CONDITIONS**

- a. **Stage I - Mild Condition:** Stage I, may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:
  1. Water consumption has reached 80 percent of daily maximum supply for three (3) consecutive days.
  2. Water supply is reduced to a level that is only 20 percent greater than the average consumption for the previous month.
  3. There is an extended period (at least eight (8) weeks) of low rainfall and daily use has risen 20 percent above the use for the same period during the previous year.
- b. **Stage II - Moderate Conditions:** Stage II rationing condition may be implemented when one of the following conditions exists:
  1. Water consumption has reached 90 percent of the amount available for three consecutive days.

2. The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for three (3) consecutive days or as may otherwise be indicated in the Corporation's approved drought management plan.
3. Stage 2 pumpage reductions are ordered by the TCEQ or other empowered agency is issued.

c. **Stage III - Severe Conditions:** Stage III rationing conditions may be implemented when one of the following four conditions exist:

1. Failure of a major component of the system or an event which reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 20 psi for a period of 24 hours or longer.
2. Water consumption of 95 percent or more of the maximum available for three (3) consecutive days.
3. Water consumption of 100 percent of the maximum available and the water storage levels in the system drop during one 24-hour period.
4. Other unforeseen events that could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.
5. Stage 3 pumpage reductions are ordered by the Barton Springs-Edwards Underground Water District or similar water conservation order by the TCEQ or other empowered agency is issued.

### 3. STAGE LEVELS OF RATIONING

The stage levels of rationing are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Section B. The System shall institute monitoring and enforce penalties for violations of the Rationing Program for each of the Stages listed below. Rationing may be implemented system-wide or in limited areas as needed. The rationing measures are summarized below.

#### a. Stage I – Voluntary Conservation

1. Under Stage I, Bolivar WSC members will be requested to voluntarily restrict usage of water for outdoor purposes such as lawns, gardens, car washing, etc. Members will be requested to voluntarily limit the amount of water used to that amount absolutely necessary for health, business and outdoor water use.

#### b. Stage II - Mild Conditions

1. Under Stage II, Bolivar WSC may select one or more of the alternatives listed below, except usage for livestock is exempt.
2. Time of Use Restriction: Usage of water for outdoor purposes such as lawns, gardens, car washing, etc., may be restricted according to one or more of the following schedules, except that Bolivar may allow irrigation by hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation anytime.

a. Alternate Day Use: Members with even numbered addresses or rural delivery numbers can use water outdoors on even numbered days and members with odd numbered addresses or rural delivery numbers can use water outdoors on odd numbered days. For members having rural delivery numbers, the last numerical digit of the rural delivery number, whether route or box number shall be used to determine watering days.

b. Weekday Use Only: No outside watering allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, or official Federal Holidays.

c. Every Five Days Use: Members whose address or rural delivery numbers ends in 0 and 1 can water on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, 2 and 3 – the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 and 5 – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 and 7- 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 and 9 – 5<sup>th</sup>, 0 and 1 – 6<sup>th</sup>, ...and so on. Bolivar WSC will provide a calendar noting the respective watering days and the order will remain consecutive as new months begin. For members having rural delivery numbers, whether route or box number, shall be used to determine watering days.

3. Hand Watering Restriction: Bolivar WSC may require that only a hand-held hose or a hand-held bucket be used for watering of lawns, gardens, trees, and shrubs.
4. Vehicle Washing Restrictions: Bolivar WSC may prohibit or limit the times for washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes and other types of mobile equipment..

**c. Stage III – Moderate Conditions**

1. All outside watering prohibited and the system may also limit livestock watering by notice.

**d. Stage IV – Severe Conditions**

1. All outdoor water usage is prohibited; usage for livestock is exempt. All Consumption shall be limited to each member in one of the following ways:
  - a. A fixed percentage of each member's average use in the prior month, the percentage to be uniformly applied on a system wide basis, each member being notified of this percentage amount, OR
  - b. A maximum number of gallons per meter (member), per week, with notice to each member of this number
1. All meters shall be read as often as necessary to insure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the members.

**4. ADDITIONAL SERVICE RESTRICTIONS**

- a. **Rationing Due to Coincidental Peak Capacity Restrictions.** Where changes in customer demands exceed the installed capacity of the Corporation's distribution system to deliver continuous and adequate service in excess of 35 psi at each service connection at all times of coincidental peak demand, the Corporation may implement Stage I water rationing for only those customers or that portion(s) of the distribution system affected by these capacity limitations. The available water service capacities shall be allocated, on a case-by-case basis, according to the priority of uses established in this chapter. The preferred method of rationing, to the extent possible, shall be limitations on time and days of water usage with minimal usage of spray irrigation. The goal of these limitations will be to allow every affected customer to receive all the water they reasonably need over differing periods to reduce coincidental peak demands on the affected distribution system. Limited area water rationing of this type is not a substitute for good service and may only be used until adequate service capacities can be added to the system.
- b. **Contractual Rationing.** The Corporation may contract with non-residential customers to limit their time of usage for irrigation purposes to specific days and specific times. Such contracts shall be enforceable by the installation of flow restrictors or demand meters and/or service termination for repeat (2 or more) violations.

**5. 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 Conservation 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 rationing is to be instituted, written notice to the customers shall be given.

Written notice of the proposed rationing shall be mailed or delivered to each affected customer, and placed in a local newspaper or announced on a local radio or television station. The customer notice shall contain the following information:

- a. The date rationing shall begin,
- b. The expected duration,
- c. The stage (level) of rationing to be employed,
- d. Penalty for violations of the rationing program, and
- e. Affected area to be rationed.

A sample Customer Notice of rationing condition is included in Miscellaneous Transaction Forms of this tariff.

If the rationing period extends 30 days then the Chairperson of the Conservation Committee or manager shall present the reasons for the rationing at the next scheduled Board Meeting and shall request the concurrence of the Board to extend the rationing period.

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

#### **6. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

For the first violation of a rationing provision a written warning shall be issued. The Corporation may install a flow restrictor in the customer's service line for the second violation. The cost of this shall be the actual cost to do the work and not exceed \$100.00.

For subsequent violations, the Corporation may terminate service for up to 7 days and charge for the service call to restore service. These provisions apply to all customers of the Corporation.

#### **7. EXEMPTIONS OR WAIVERS**

The System may grant exemptions or waivers for individuals that can demonstrate just cause for outside or other use of water other than permitted by this Rationing Program. Some examples may include no other source for livestock, for business purposes, for other planned construction or improvement already in progress, etc.

#### **8. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Board shall establish a Conservation Committee by Resolution, the chairperson, of which, will be the responsible representative to make Emergency Water Management actions. This committee should also review the procedures in this plan annually so that modifications can be made to accommodate system growth.

The provisions which affect customers in this Plan were adopted by the Board. These procedures will be put into effect by the Board or its designated representative.