



Drought Contingency Plan for South Cleveland Water Supply Corporation (SCWSC)

Approved by the SCWSC Board of Directors
on April 16, 2020

South Cleveland Water Supply Corporation
P.O. Box 1811, Cleveland, Texas 77328-1811
Telephone: (281) 659-9771
www.southclevelandwsc.ruralwaterusa.com

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 always be conserved, 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 SCWSC service area population, distribution system or supply. This review and evaluation will be done on an annual basis unless conditions necessitate more frequent amendments.

The plan will be implemented according to the three stages of water use restrictions as imposed by the Board. Section 6 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. Public Education

The South Cleveland WSC will periodically 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. 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 always be conserved, not just during a drought or emergency.

4. Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group

Being located within the Region H, of the Texas Regional Water Planning Area, a copy of this Plan has been provided to that Regional Water Planning Group.

5. *Notice Requirements*

Immediate notification of a decision to initiate water restriction will be provided by public posting notice(s) on website, notices on monthly water bills, and a written notice by mail 72 hours prior to the start of the water restriction. At the initiation of each stage, notice of the proposed water allocation measure shall be noted on monthly billing statements and posted in public places. In addition, upon adoption of Stage II or Stage III, a notice will be placed at a visible location in the community. The customer notice shall contain the following information:

1. The date restrictions will begin.
2. The circumstances that triggered the restrictions.
3. The stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented, and,
4. An explanation of the consequences for violations.

6. *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 monthly operating reports, water supply or storage tank levels and/or rainfall as needed to determine when trigger conditions are reached. The triggering 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.

- a. **Stage I - Mild Condition:** Stage I water allocation measures 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) 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.
 - 3) Response for Stage I – Mild Condition: Target is achieving a 15% reduction in daily maximum supply.
- b. **Stage II - Moderate Conditions:** Stage II water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following conditions exist:
 - 1) Water consumption has reached 80 percent of the amount available for three (3) consecutive days.
 - 2) The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for three (3) consecutive days. Example: The highest recorded water level drops ten (10) feet or more for three (3) consecutive days.
 - 3) Response for Stage II – Moderate Condition: Target is achieving a 20% reduction in daily maximum supply.
- c. **Stage III - Severe Conditions:** Stage III water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following five conditions exist:
 - 1) Failure of a major component of the system or an event which reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 25 psi for a period of 24 hours or longer.

- 2) Water consumption of 90 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) Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
- 5) The declaration of a state of disaster due to drought conditions in a county or counties served by the Corporation.
- 6) Reduction of wholesale water supply due to drought conditions.
- 7) Other unforeseen events which could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.
- 8) Response for Stage III – Severe Condition: Target is achieving a 25% reduction in daily maximum supply.

7. *Stage Levels of Water Allocations*

The stage levels of water allocations are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Section 6. The System shall institute monitoring and enforce penalties for violations of the Drought Plan for each of the Stages listed below. The water allocation measures are summarized below.

a. Stage I - Mild Conditions

- 1) Alternate day, time of day, or duration restrictions for outside water usage allowed. (System will notify Customers which restriction is in effect)
- 2) The system will reduce flushing operations.
- 3) Reduction of customers' water use will be encouraged through notices on bills or other method.

b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions

- 1) All outside water use is prohibited (except for a livestock or other exemption or variance granted under this section).
- 2) Make public service announcements as conditions change via local media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.).

c. Stage III - Severe Conditions

- 1) All outside watering prohibited.
- 2) Water use will be restricted to a percentage of each member's prior month usage. This percentage may be adjusted as needed according to demand on the system. Notice of this amount will be sent to each customer.
- 3) Corporation shall continue enforcement and educational efforts.

NOTE:

- There may be additional restrictions imposed by Governmental Entities.
- Meters will be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.

8. *Pro Active Curtailment*

In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section 6 for Stage III – Severe Water Conditions have been met, the designated official is hereby authorized to initiate allocating of water supplies on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code Section 11.039.

South Cleveland WSC will include a provision in every wholesale water contract entered into or renewed after adoption of the plan, including contract extensions, that in case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water to be distributed will be divided in accordance with Texas Water Code Section 11.039.

9. 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 water use restrictions 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, customers will be notified by public posting, notice(s) on website, notices on monthly water bills, and will be provided with a written notice by mail 72 hours prior to the start of the water restriction. Notice of the proposed water allocation measure shall be noted on monthly billing statements and posted in public places at the initiation of each stage. In addition, upon adoption of Stage II or Stage III, a notice will be placed at visible locations within the community. The customer notice shall contain the following information:

- a. The date water restriction shall begin,
- b. Affected area or areas,
- c. The circumstances that triggered the restrictions,
- d. The stages of restrictions to be implemented, and
- e. An explanation of the consequences for violations.

A sample Customer Notice of Water Restrictions 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 by the same method as initiation notice. A water allocation period may not exceed 60 days without extension by action of the Board.

10. Penalties for Violations

- a. **First Violation** – The Corporation will assess a penalty of \$10.00. 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 and inform the customer that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service. Reconnection will require payment of the penalty and a charge for the service call to restore service. The notice will also

inform the customer that additional violations will trigger more severe penalties and may result in termination of service regardless of whether the customer pays the penalties.

- b. Second Violation** - The Corporation will assess a penalty of \$15.00. 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 of second violation will show the amount of penalty to be assessed and will inform the customer that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service to be restored only upon payment of penalty and service call to restore service. The notice will also inform the customer that additional violations will trigger more severe penalties and may result in termination of service regardless of whether the customer pays the penalties.
- c. Subsequent Violations** - The Corporation will assess an additional penalty of \$20.00 for violations continuing after the Second 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 of subsequent violation will show the amount of the penalty to be assessed and will inform the violator that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service to be restored only upon payment of penalty and service call to restore service. The notice will also inform the customer that 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. Removal of this device will be considered Meter Tampering and will result in disconnection of service without further notice. The notice of subsequent violation will also inform the customer that additional penalties will be assessed for additional violations; and in addition to penalties, that water service will be terminated for a period of three (3) days regardless of whether the customer pays the penalties for the additional violations.
- d. Termination** – For each continuing violation, the Corporation will assess an additional penalty. Service will also be terminated. 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 of termination will show the date on which water service will be terminated. Service will remain off until any delinquent penalty or other assessments and charges are fully paid including a charge for the service call to restore service

These provisions apply to all customers of the Corporation.

11. 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.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Plan shall file a petition for variance with the Drought/Emergency Management Committee within five (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.

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.

12. *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 as needed. Modifications may be required to accommodate system growth, changes in water use demand, available water supply and/or other circumstances.

This Plan, as amended, was adopted by the Board after a public hearing at a properly noticed meeting held on April 16, 2020.

Committee Chairman:
Earl Wilmoth
832-318-2522
earlwilmoth@gmail.com

Committee Co-Chairman:
Bryan Brooks
936-662-1655
Bbroks062381@gmail.com

Office Manager
Cookie McKee
281-659-9771
thewatercrew@att.net

Approved by the South Cleveland Water Supply Corporation Board of Directors on the 16th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:


Byron Aultman, Board President


Ralph Fuller, Board Secretary