

MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Drought Contingency Plan

Re-Adopted August 4th, 2022

I. Purpose and Policy of Drought Contingency Plan

The Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (“District”) re-adopts this Drought Contingency Plan (“Plan”) to further its efforts of conserving, preserving, and managing the groundwater resources within the District’s boundaries. The purpose of this Plan is to minimize the effects of depletion of the groundwater resources in the District during times of drought. The District believes that the voluntary reductions in usage that are associated with each drought stage in this Plan can be achieved and will minimize the effects of drought on the District’s groundwater resources. Nothing in this Plan prevents the District from exercising its authority under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, the District’s enabling legislation, or the District’s Rules.

II. Designation of Drought Stages

The District Board of Directors (“Board”) or the District General Manager shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each drought stage in this Plan and shall take appropriate action to declare the appropriate stage. In the event the General Manager declares a drought stage in accordance with this Plan, the Board shall be informed of the action taken to declare a drought stage at the next District Board meeting. The Board may confirm or revise the action taken to declare a drought stage if considered to be necessary by the Board.

III. Public Notification of Drought Stages

Public notification of the initiation or termination of declared drought stages may be accomplished by using any one or more of the following methods:

- a. Notification on the District’s internet website;
- b. Publication in newspaper(s) of general circulation in the District;
- c. District mailing, fax, or email to owners/operators of permitted wells.

IV. Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Stages

Initiation of a Drought Stage: The Precipitation Deficit Index (PDI) shall be monitored and presented to the District Board at each monthly Board meeting. PDI is monitored every Monday at 8:00 A.M., on a running-year basis over a defined area consisting generally of the District’s four counties (Erath, Comanche, Bosque, and Coryell) and based on NEX-RAD rainfall data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The PDI is listed in the drought stages in this Plan as a percentage of average rainfall. Drought

stages shall be triggered when the PDI value is less than a drought stage trigger condition for the period described below:

The PDI must be less than the drought state trigger condition of the drought for a period of 30 consecutive days.

Termination of a Drought Stage: The drought stage in effect shall be reduced or terminated when the PDI is greater than the trigger conditions of the drought stage in effect for the periods described below:

The PDI must be greater than the trigger condition for a period of 42 consecutive days.

V. Public Water Suppliers

The District recognizes that public water suppliers within the District have Drought Contingency Plans that provide drought stages and drought stage reduction measures that are intended to apply within their service areas. All public water suppliers within the District that have Drought Contingency Plans have the discretion as to how the desired usage reduction is to be accomplished within their service areas.

VI. Drought Stage Conservation Measures

The goals and usage reduction measures assigned to each drought stage below are voluntary and are recommended for the purpose of reducing the impact of drought conditions on the groundwater resources within the District's boundaries.

Stage 1 – Mild Drought Status

Drought Stage Trigger: PDI = 70 to 79%

Goal: 10% reduction in water use

Recommended Actions to Reduce Water Usage:

- a. Check for and repair all water leaks.
- b. Install aerators on faucets.
- c. While waiting for hot water to reach faucet, catch cold water in a container to be reused.
- d. Limit landscape irrigation to no more than two days per week. Agriculture and horticulture operations are exempted from this measure but are encouraged to reduce tree, plant, and crop watering by 10%.
- e. Do not leave faucets running when not in use.
- f. Turn off master water shutoff when out of town or on vacation.
- g. Check automatic sprinkler heads regularly to prevent clogging and adjust to eliminate overspray
- h. Avoid watering on windy days.
- i. Use mulch to conserve soil moisture.

- j. Limit vehicle washing except when conducted with a bucket or hand-held hose with an automatic shutoff device during and, if possible, use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- k. Limit swimming pool filter backwashing to only when necessary.
- l. Utilize water reuse or recirculation where possible.
- m. Limit landscape irrigation to occur only between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Stage 2 – Moderate Drought Status

Drought Stage Trigger: PDI = 60 – 69%

Goal: 20% reduction in water use

Recommended Actions to Reduce Water Usage:

- a. Follow all actions under Stage 1 – Mild Drought Status.
- b. Use water to wash down buildings or other structures only for the fire protection purposes or for public health and safety purposes.
- c. Limit landscape irrigation to no more than one day per week. Agriculture and horticulture operations are exempted from this measure but are encouraged to reduce tree, plant, and crop watering by 20%.
- d. Keep swimming pools, landscape or decorative ponds and fountains covered where possible, re-circulate water, and refill only once per week.
- e. Water livestock in leak-proof troughs as much as practical.
- f. Limit the use of ornamental fountains, ponds for aesthetic or scenery purposes only where absolutely necessary to support aquatic life or where equipped with a recirculating system.
- g. Use soaker hoses for foundation protection only on designated watering days.
- h. Water for dust control only where required by law.
- i. Wash down sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts or other hard-surfaced areas only for public health and safety purposes.

Stage 3 – Severe Drought Status

Drought Stage Trigger: PDI = 50 to 59%

Goal: 30% reduction in water use

Recommended Actions to Reduce Water Usage:

- a. Follow all actions under Stage 1 – Mild Drought Status and Stage 2 – Moderate Drought Status
- b. Limit all outdoor watering to the use of a hand-held hose with an automatic shutoff device or faucet-filled bucket or watering can.
- c. Do not refill swimming pools, landscape or decorative ponds and fountains.
- d. Limit all washing of vehicles, boats, or trailers to commercial carwashes that recycle water.

Stage 4 – Emergency Drought Status

Drought Stage Trigger: PDI < 50%

Goal: 40% reduction in water use

Recommended Actions to Reduce Water Usage:

- a. Follow all actions under Stage 1 – Mild Drought Status, Stage 2 – Moderate Drought Status, and Stage 3 – Severe Drought Status.
- b. Limit all outdoor use of water and nonessential uses as much as possible.
- c. No landscape irrigation or outdoor watering. Agriculture and horticulture operations are exempted from this measure but are encouraged to reduce tree, plant, and crop watering by 40%.
- a. No washing of vehicles, boats, or trailers.

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Chart of Drought Stages in Drought Contingency Plan

DROUGHT STAGE	PRECIPITATION DEFICIT INDEX (PDI) DROUGHT STAGE TRIGGER – PERCENT OF AVERAGE RAINFALL	PERCENT OF VOLUNTARY REDUCTION IN WATER USE
Stage 1 – Mild Drought Status	70 – 79%	10%
Stage 2 – Moderate Drought Status	60 - 69%	20%
Stage 3 – Severe Drought Status	50 – 59%	30%
Stage 4 – Emergency Drought Status	< 50%	40%