

## DOWDELL PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

### Resolution for Adoption of Order Establishing Drought Contingency Plan

The Board of Directors ("Board") of Dowdell Public Utility District ("District") met at the Board's regular meeting place on May 21, 2015, with a quorum of Directors present, as follows:

Jerry L. Nelson, President  
Allison Copony, Vice President  
James Bertus, Secretary  
Christopher Kotran, Assistant Secretary  
Danny Staab, Director

and the following absent:

None

when the following business was transacted:

The order set out below was introduced for consideration of the Board. It was duly moved and seconded that said order be adopted; and, after due discussion, said motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: All directors present.

Noes: None.

The order thus adopted is as follows:

Any order and amendments thereto, heretofore adopted by the Board of Directors, providing for a drought contingency plan for customers within the District, is hereby revoked upon the effective date of this order.

The order hereinafter set forth shall become effective on May 21, 2015.

**ORDER ESTABLISHING DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR  
DOWDELL PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Dowdell Public Utility District (“District”) owns a water and sewer system designed to serve present and future inhabitants within the District and recognizes that the amount of water available to the District and its water utility customers may be limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that natural limitations due to drought conditions and other acts of God occur, and the District cannot guarantee an uninterrupted water supply for all purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Section 11.1272 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, and applicable rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require all public water supply systems in Texas, such as the District, to prepare a drought contingency plan; and,

WHEREAS, the North Harris County Regional Water Authority (“Authority”) requires all of its customers and well owners whose wells are included under the Authority’s Harris-Galveston Subsidence District aggregate well permit to adopt a drought contingency plan with requirements at least as stringent as those included in the Authority’s drought contingency plan; and,

WHEREAS, as authorized under law, and in the best interests of the customers of the District, the Board of Directors of the District deems it expedient and necessary to establish certain rules and policies for the orderly and efficient management of limited water supplies during drought and other water supply emergencies; therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF DOWDELL PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT THAT:

**Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In order to conserve the available water supply and 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 District hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan ("Plan") 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 XI of this Plan.

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the District by means of scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan.

## **Section III: Public Education**

The District 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. This information will be provided by means of utility bill inserts, signs posted in the subdivision, or other method reasonably calculated to provide notice to District customers.

## **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the District is located within the Texas Water Development Board Region H Regional Water Planning Group and the District has provided a copy of this Plan to the Region H Regional Water Planning Group.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The Board of Directors of the District or its designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Board of Directors of the District or its designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

## **Section VI: Application**

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

## **Section VII: Definitions**

For the purposes of this Plan, 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 non-profit 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 the District.

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 numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 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 used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) Irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) Use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) Use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and

- (i) Use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than fire fighting.

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

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

The Board of Directors of the District or its designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a regular basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. Notwithstanding any of the triggering criteria described herein, upon the Authority's implementation of any stage of the Authority's drought contingency plan, the District shall implement the same stage or a higher stage of this Plan. Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by means of publication in a newspaper of general circulation, direct mail to each customer, signs posted in public places, or other method reasonably calculated to notify the public of the Plan.

The triggering criteria described below are based on the District's anticipated ability to provide water to its customers based on the District's historical experience of operations in drought conditions.

#### **A. Stage 1 Water Shortage; Voluntary Water Use Restrictions**

This condition (herein "Stage 1 Water Shortage") exists when demand on the District's water supply reaches or exceeds 70% of the production capacity of such facilities for five (5) consecutive days, as determined by the District's operator.

#### **B. Stage 2 Water Shortage**

This condition (herein "Stage 2 Water Shortage") exists when demand on the District's water supply reaches or exceeds 80% of the production capacity of such facilities for three (3) consecutive days, as determined by the District's operator.

#### **C. Stage 3 Water Shortage**

This condition (herein "Stage 3 Water Shortage") exists when demand on the District's water supply reaches or exceeds 90% of the production capacity of such facilities for twenty-four (24) hours, as determined by the District's operator.

#### **D. Stage 4 Water Shortage**

This condition (herein “ Stage 4 Water Shortage”) exists when the District’s water supply reaches or exceeds 100% of the production capacity of such facilities for twenty-four (24) hours, as determined by the District’s operator.

#### **E. Notice**

Once one of the Trigger Conditions has occurred, Customers will be notified that such Trigger Condition has occurred and of the Drought Response Measures (as defined below) to be taken. The process for notifying Customers may include any of the following:

1. Mailing, at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the required Drought Response Measures, a written notice to each Customer;
2. Posting of signs at the entrances to the District;
3. Posting of notices at public places in the District; and
4. Dissemination of press releases to the local news media.

Any notice issued shall contain:

- (i) The date the Drought Response Measures will begin;
- (ii) The date the Drought Response Measures will terminate, if known;
- (iii) A list of Drought Response Measures to be implemented; and
- (iv) An explanation of penalties for violations of such Drought Response Measures.

### **Section IX: Drought Response Stages**

The Board of Directors of the District or its designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a regular basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of the Plan, shall determine that a Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, Stage 4, or emergency condition exists and shall implement the following actions upon prior notification to District customers:

#### **A. Stage 1 Water Shortage; Voluntary Water Use Restrictions**

Target: Achieve a 5% reduction in daily water demand.

1. Water Customers will be asked to voluntarily reduce water use, and will be informed of specific steps that can be taken to reduce water use.

2. Water Customers will be advised that mandatory measures may be imposed if the water shortage period continues.
3. Water Customers will be asked to check for and repair all leaks, dripping faucets, and running toilets, and will be asked to utilize water conservation measures such as displacement bags, low flow shower heads and leak detection tablets.

Water Customers shall be requested to limit outdoor irrigation between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day in conformity with the following schedule (no watering on Mondays).

- a. Sundays and Thursdays for single family residential customers with even-numbered addresses;
- b. Saturdays and Wednesdays for single family residential customers with odd-numbered street addresses; and
- c. Tuesdays and Fridays for all other customers.

In the event no street address exists, only Customers living on the north and west side of a street may use water outdoors on even-numbered days and only Customers on the south and east side of a street may use water outdoors on odd-numbered days.

#### **B. Stage 2 Water Shortage**

Target: Achieve a 10% reduction in daily water demand.

1. The Drought Response Measures established for a Stage 1 Water Shortage shall continue to be implemented.
2. All detectible water leaks must be repaired within 72 hours of discovery.
3. All Outdoor irrigation shall be limited to no more than two (2) days per week and may be limited to (1) day per week. Outdoor irrigation shall be permitted between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day in conformity with the following schedule (no watering on Mondays).
  - a. Sundays and/or Thursdays for single family residential customers with even-numbered addresses;
  - b. Saturdays and/or Wednesdays for single family residential customers with odd-numbered street addresses; and
  - c. Tuesdays and/or Fridays for all other customers.

In the event no street address exists, only Customers living on the north and west side of a street may use water outdoors on even-numbered days and only Customers on the south and east side of a street may use water outdoors on odd-numbered days.

**C. Stage 3 Water Shortage**

Target: Achieve a 15% reduction in daily water demand.

1. The Drought Response Measures established for Stage 1 Water Shortage and Stage 2 Water Shortage shall continue to be implemented.
2. The use of water for all outdoor purposes including irrigation, ornamental, decorative, or scenic purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens, shall be prohibited.

**D. Stage 4 Water Shortage**

Target: Achieve a 20% reduction in daily water demand

1. The Drought Response Measures established for Stage 1 Water Shortage, Stage 2 Water Shortage, and Stage 3 Water Shortage shall continue to be implemented.
2. The District may initiate allocation of water supplies or limit water use by certain classes of water users as determined by the Board of Directors.

**E. Termination of Trigger Conditions Notification.**

When a Trigger Condition occurs, the District shall enforce the Drought Response Measures applicable to such Trigger Condition for a minimum of five (5) days after the last day the demand on the District's water supply facilities reaches or exceeds the limits of such Trigger Condition. After such five (5) day period, the Drought Response Measures prescribed may, in the discretion of the Board, be continued for an additional five (5) day period. After the expiration of ten (10) days, and assuming no other Trigger Conditions have occurred, the Drought Response Measures prescribed shall terminate and the District shall cease implementation and enforcement of such measures. The District will notify Customers of the termination of the particular Drought Response Measures and may utilize the same manner of notification used to inform Customers of the occurrence of the Trigger Condition and implementation of the Drought Response Measures.

**Section X: Emergency Contingency Plan**

In the event of a fire, flood, hurricane, lightning strike, tornado, windstorm, or any other act of God, riot, terrorist act, or any other act of civil disobedience, or any other similar occurrence which results in the inability of the District to provide potable water to Customers (or the likelihood thereof), the Board of Directors, in its discretion, may, without prior notice, invoke any or all of the Drought Response Measures set forth in this Plan as "Emergency Response



Measures.” The Board of Directors may establish any of the penalties set forth in Section XI for violations of the Emergency Response Measures.

#### **Section XI: Enforcement**

The following penalties shall apply to anyone violating the terms of this Plan or the Drought Response Measures or Emergency Response Measures adopted pursuant hereto:

- A. **First Violation** Any person or entity who violates this Plan shall receive written notification of such violation, which notice shall set forth:
- (i) The date of the violation;
  - (ii) The nature of the violation;
  - (iii) The Drought Response Measures then in effect; and
  - (iv) The penalties applicable for any further violations of this Plan; provided, however, that if such person or entity has ever previously violated this Plan, the penalties set forth in Section B below, may, in the discretion of the Board, be imposed.
- B. **Subsequent Violations**
1. **Disconnection for Noncompliance.** If any person or entity violates any provision of this Plan more than one time (which violation shall constitute an unauthorized use of District services and/or facilities), then in addition to any other remedies, penalties, sanctions and enforcement procedures provided for herein, the District shall have the right to terminate water service to such person or entity after notice and any other procedural requirements in the District’s rate order are satisfied.
  2. **Monetary Penalties for Noncompliance.** If any person or entity violates any provision of this Plan more than one time (which violation shall constitute an unauthorized use of District services and/or facilities), then, in addition to disconnection as provided in Subsection B1 of this Section, the Board of the District, after providing required notice, may impose a penalty of up to the jurisdictional limit of a justice court, currently \$10,000.00 for each violation of this Plan. Each day that a breach of any provision of this Plan continues shall be considered a separate violation. This penalty shall be in addition to any other legal rights and remedies of the District as may be allowed by law.

## **Section XII: Variances**

The Board of Directors or its designee 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, sanitation, or fire protection 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 Plan shall file a petition for variance with the District within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors or its designee and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s);
- (b) Purpose of water use;
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief;
- (d) 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;
- (e) Description of the relief requested;
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought;
- (g) 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; and
- (h) Other pertinent information.

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

- (a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan 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 this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

## **Section XIII: Severability**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Directors that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Plan are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Plan shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or

decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Plan, since the same would not have been enacted by the Board of Directors without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

The President or Vice President is authorized to execute and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest this Order on behalf of the Board of Directors of the District.

JERRY L. NELSON

President

ATTEST:

JIM BERTUS

Secretary

I, the undersigned secretary of the board of directors of Dowdell Public Utility District, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the order establishing a drought contingency plan, adopted by said board at its meeting of May 21, 2015, together with excerpts from the minutes of said board's meeting on that date showing the adoption of said order, as same appear of record in the official minutes of the board, on file in the District's office.

I further certify that said meeting was open to the public, and that notice thereof was posted in compliance with the provisions of Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. § 551.001 et seq.

Witness my hand and the official seal of said District this May 21, 2015.



Secretary

