

**BANDERA COUNTY RIVER AUTHORITY
AND GROUNDWATER DISTRICT**

**DROUGHT
MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

Adopted October 10, 2013

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DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Drought Status Guidelines and Requirements

The Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District has the authority to monitor and restrict the production from all Permitted Wells during times of drought. Permitted Wells are wells that are not exempt from permitting under Chapter 36 of the Water Code and under District Rules. This Board approved Drought Management Plan places the following reasonable restrictions on Permitted Wells.

All pumping of groundwater into ponds, lakes, impoundments, natural watercourses, or reservoirs is considered a waste of groundwater unless exempted or permitted under District and / or TCEQ Rules.

2. Recommended Restrictions on All Well Users During Drought

Under State law and District Rules exempt well owners are not restricted during drought conditions. However, exempt well owners are expected to be good neighbors and informed stewards of the aquifer, adhering to accepted conservation practices. However, exempt well users who have been found to be wasting water as defined by District rules are subject to District enforcement actions.

3. Drought Stage Triggers

Drought Stages are triggered by the U.S. Drought Monitor, <http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu>. However, Drought Stages can be adjusted at the discretion of the District when aquifer levels, rainfall, and river flow conditions warrant.

4. Initiation and Termination of Drought Stages

The District shall provide public notification of the initiation or termination of drought stages by the following:

- Posting at the District's office
- In the newspapers of general circulation
- By direct mailing and/or e-mails to owners/operators of Permitted Wells
- Posting on the Districts' website www.bcragd.org

5. Restrictions for Permitted Wells Including Wells Serving a Public Water System

When there is a conflict between the Districts' Drought Management Plan and a public water supplier's plan, the more stringent of the two shall prevail. Public water supplies should implement the appropriate stage of their Drought Management Plan when these following drought stages are declared.

The following five stages give recommended watering practices for exempt wells and mandate required restrictions for permitted wells. These conservation measures are important to achieve the water conservation goal required for each Drought Stage.

6. Drought Stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are described below.

STAGE 1(D0): ABNORMALLY DRY (MILD DROUGHT)

Conservation Goal -10 % Reduction in pumping

A. Water permit users shall limit irrigation, including the irrigation of landscaped areas and turf, to the hours after 6:00 PM and before 8 AM to reduce water losses due to evaporation.

B. The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and shall be prohibited:

1. Washing down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
2. Washing down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
3. Failure to repair a controllable leak within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such a leak.

STAGE 2 (D1): MODERATE DROUGHT

Conservation Goal – 20% Reduction in pumping

A. Water permit users shall limit irrigation, including the irrigation of landscaped areas and turf to the designated watering hours before 8:00 AM and after 8:00 PM

B. The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and shall be prohibited:

1. Washing down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis

courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.

2. Washing down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.

3. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such a leak.

4. Washing any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer or other vehicle other than a public safety vehicle on a premises other than a commercial car wash or service station and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare.

STAGE 3 (D2): SEVERE DROUGHT

Conservation Goal – 30% Reduction in pumping

The following drought restrictions and any subsequent enforcement actions not only apply to all permit holders and public water suppliers but to anyone who utilizes water from a public water supply system or any District permit holder in the County.

A. Water permit users shall limit irrigation, including the irrigation of landscaped areas and turf to every other day during the designated watering hours before 8:00 AM and after 8:00 PM.

B. The following use of water defined as non-essential shall be prohibited:

1. Washing down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.

2. Washing down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.

3. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such a leak.

4. Washing any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer or other vehicle other than a public safety vehicle on a premises other than a commercial car wash or service station and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare.

5. Permittees with wells permitted to pump into surface impoundments shall discontinue pumping. This does not apply to those wells permitted for non-domestic irrigation.

6. The filling of swimming pools is prohibited, however, pool levels may be maintained because of evaporation.

STAGE 4 (D3): EXTREME DROUGHT

Drought Emergency

Conservation Goal- 40% Reduction in pumping

The following drought restrictions and any subsequent enforcement actions not only apply to all permit holders and public water suppliers but to anyone who utilizes water from a public water supply system or any District permit holder in the County.

- A.** Water permit users shall limit irrigation, including the irrigation of landscaped areas and turf to one day a week during the designated watering hours before 8:00 AM and after 8:00 PM. However, golf courses that use treated wastewater effluent or other non-groundwater sources are allowed to utilize those sources for the watering of golf course greens, tees, and fairways.

- B.** The following use of water defined as non-essential shall be prohibited:
 - 1. Washing down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
 - 2. Washing down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
 - 3. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such a leak(s).
 - 4. Washing any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash or service station and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare should be prohibited.
 - 5. All Permittees with wells permitted to pump into surface impoundments shall discontinue pumping. This does not apply to those wells permitted for non- domestic irrigation.
 - 6. The filling or adding to swimming pools is prohibited.
 - 7. Leak proof troughs shall be used to supply water to livestock.

- C. The issuance of new water well permits, and amendments may be suspended except to replace an existing well.**

STAGE 5 (D4) – EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT

Drought Emergency

Conservation Goal 50% Reduction in pumping

The following drought restrictions and any subsequent enforcement actions not only apply to all permit holders and public water suppliers but to anyone who utilizes water from a public water supply system or any District permit holder in the County.

- A.** All requirements of Stage 4 remain in effect in Stage 5.
- B.** Irrigation of all landscape areas and turf is prohibited at all times.
- C.** All Permittees with wells permitted to pump into surface impoundments shall discontinue pumping.
- D.** The issuance of new water well permits, and amendments may be suspended except to replace an existing well.
- E.** All existing permits may have their authorized pumping amounts reduced by the District for the duration of Stage 5 and possibly even if the County falls back into Stage 4.
- F.** Any other measures deemed necessary by the Board to protect public health and safety.

7. Enforcement

- A.** Failure to follow restrictions mandated by the Districts' Drought Management Plan can result in enforcement actions being initiated by the District. District rules authorize the imposition of fines up to \$ 10,000 for each infraction.
- B.** During Stage 4 and Stage 5, Public Water Suppliers and permittees may refer customers who fail to comply with any mandated drought restrictions to the District for possible enforcement actions.
- C.** Exempt well users that have been found to be wasting water, as defined by District rules, are subject to District enforcement actions.

8. Variances

***Variances to this plan can be issued only when site specific conditions warrant and are subject to District approval.**