**DIVISION 3. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**Sec. 13-75. Definitions.**

For the purpose of this division, the following definitions shall apply:

*City Manager.* The City Manager or his/her designee.

*Customer.* Any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the City, regardless of such person's status as a person who has actually contracted with the City to receive water. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the plan are interchangeable and include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

*Designated Watering Days:* Sundays and Thursdays for customers with street addresses ending in even numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, or 8) and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with street addresses ending in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, or 9).

*Even number address:* Street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8, and locations without addresses.

*Landscape irrigation use:* Water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscape areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

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

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

*Odd number address:* Street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

*Plan:* Drought contingency plan of the City or this division of the City Code.
Sec. 13-76. Triggering criteria for initiation and termination of drought response stages.

A. Rationale. The City Manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan. Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by means of direct mail to each customer, publication in local newspaper, radio and television media, or other means the City Manager deems appropriate.

The triggering criteria described in the City’s drought contingency plan were established to enable the City to withstand a repeat of the drought of record and are based on the City’s water supplies being, in the following order of importance:

1. The City’s permit(s) to withdraw approximately twenty thousand (20,000) acre feet of water from the Guadalupe River;
2. The level of water in the City’s water storage reservoirs represented herein by the storage capacity of off-channel reservoir #8, which contains the City’s raw water pump station, has a full elevation of fifty-two (52) feet above mean sea level (msl), and an empty elevation of thirty-two (32) feet above msl; and
3. The City’s groundwater wells.

B. Implementation and Termination of Stages.

1. Stage 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions:

   Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain nonessential water use when the flow of the Guadalupe River, as measured at the Victoria USGS gauge falls below "normal" as defined in Permit No. 5466 and, as a result, the City of Victoria can pump no more than 10% of the flow of the Guadalupe River as measured at the Victoria USGS gauge.

   Requirements for termination - Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 14 consecutive days.

2. Stage 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions:

   Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses provided in this Plan when the flow of the Guadalupe River, as measured at the Victoria USGS gauge reach "low" flow as defined in Permit No. 5466 and, as a result, the City of Victoria can pump no more water from the Guadalupe River under Permit No. 5466.

   Requirements for termination - Stage 2 of this Plan may be rescinded when the conditions listed as triggering mechanisms for this state of water restrictions have ceased for 14 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

3. Stage 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions:

   Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses for Stage 3 of this Plan when the Director of Public Works implements the groundwater exchange program described in subsection C. of this section, below, or when the level in off-channel reservoir #8 is at an elevation 42 feet above mean sea level (approximately 50% of maximum draw down).

   Requirements for termination - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when the Director of Public Works terminates the groundwater exchange program described in subsection C. of this section,
below, for 14 consecutive days, or when the level in off-channel reservoir #8 is at an elevation 52 feet above mean sea level for a period of 14 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

4. Stage 4 - Critical Water Shortage Conditions:

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses for Stage 4 of this Plan when the level in the off-channel reservoir #8 is at an elevation 37 feet above mean sea level (approximately 75% of maximum draw down).

Requirements for termination - Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when the level in off-channel reservoir #8 is at an elevation 42 feet above mean sea level for a period of 14 consecutive days (approximately 50% of maximum draw down). Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

5. Stage 5 - Emergency Water Shortage Conditions:

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when the City Manager, or his/her designee, determines that a water supply emergency exists based on:

(a) Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures, which cause unprecedented loss of capacity to provide water service,

(b) Natural or manmade contamination of the water supply source, or

(c) Pumping capacity exceeded by customer demands.

Requirements for termination - Stage 5 of this Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

6. Water Rationing:

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the water allocation plan prescribed in this Plan and comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when the pumping capacity of the backup ground water system is unable to provide the necessary volume to keep up with customer demand.

Requirements for termination - Water rationing may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

C. Groundwater Exchange. The Director of Public Works may implement a program of exchanging groundwater for surface water by diverting an amount of state water and replacing the diversion with discharged groundwater during extreme drought conditions and when authorized by Water Use Permits No. 3606A and 18-3862a or by emergency provisions by the TCEQ.

(Ord. No. 2017-1, § 1(Exh. A), 2-7-17)

Sec. 13-77. Restrictions during drought response stages.

After the City Manager has implemented a particular drought response stage and publicized said stage by means of publication in local newspaper, radio and television media, or other means deemed appropriate, the restrictions as described in this section shall become applicable and it shall be unlawful for any person to disobey such restrictions during said stage.

A. Stage 1 - Mild water shortage conditions. The goal of stage 1 is to achieve a two (2) percent reduction in total water use. In stage 1, water customers will be requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of
landscaped areas to between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight, practice water conservation, and minimize or discontinue water use for nonessential purposes.

B. Stage 2 - Moderate water shortage conditions. The goal of Stage 2 is to achieve a five (5) percent reduction in total water use. In Stage 2, it shall be unlawful for water customers to fail to comply with the following restrictions:

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, irrigation of landscaped areas shall be permitted at any time if it is by means of hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, hand-held bucket, or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.

2. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited except between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

3. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.

4. Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to fire-fighting related activities or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the City.

5. Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the City, the facility shall not be subject to these regulations.

C. Stage 3 - Severe water shortage conditions. The goal of Stage 3 is to achieve a ten (10) percent reduction in total water use. In Stage 3, it shall be unlawful for water customers to fail to comply with the following restrictions:

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas (including golf course greens) with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Designated Water Days, and irrigation of landscaped areas are further limited to the hours of between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on Designated Watering Days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, hand-held bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.

2. Golf course tees and fairways shall not be watered unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the City.

3. Ornamental fountain or pool for aesthetic or scenic purposes may not be operated except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
4. Restaurants may not serve water to patrons except when requested.

5. Water may not be used to:
   (a) Wash sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
   (b) Wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
   (c) Control dust.
   (d) Flush gutters.

6. Water shall not be permitted to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.

7. Controllable leaks shall be repaired within fifteen (15) days after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

D. Stage 4 - Critical water shortage condition. The goal of stage 4 is to achieve a fifteen (15) percent reduction in total water use. In stage 4, it shall be unlawful for water customers to fail to comply with the following restrictions:

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas (including golf course greens) shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.

2. Golf course tees and fairways shall not be watered unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the City.

3. Ornamental fountain or pool for aesthetic or scenic purposes may not be operated except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.

4. Restaurants may not serve water to patrons except when requested.

5. Water may not be used to:
   (a) Wash sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
   (b) Wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
   (c) Control dust.
   (d) Flush gutters.

6. Water shall not be permitted to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.

7. Controllable leaks shall be repaired within fifteen (15) days after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

8. Water shall not be used to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle not on the premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service stations. Vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations shall occur between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. unless the car wash utilizes wash water recovery and reuse.

9. The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.

10. Water shall not be used for construction purposes from fire hydrants.
E. Stage 5 - Emergency water shortage conditions. The goal of stage 5 is to achieve a fifty (50) percent reduction in total water use. In stage 5, it shall be unlawful for water customers to fail to comply with the following restrictions:

1. Landscaped areas shall not be irrigated.
2. With the exception of requirements (d)(1) and (d)(8) of this section, all requirements of stage 4 shall remain in effect during stage 5.
3. The City will reduce or discontinue flushing of water mains, reduce or discontinue irrigation of public landscaped areas, and reduce or discontinue use of water during construction.
4. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicles is absolutely prohibited.

F. Water rationing. In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the City Manager, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to ration water according to the following water allocation plan:

1. Single-family residential dwellings. The allocation to single-family residential dwellings shall be as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Persons per Household</th>
<th>Gallons per Month</th>
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<td>1 or 2</td>
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<td>9 or 10</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>11 or more</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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"Household" means a residential premises served by a particular meter. "Persons per household" includes only those persons currently physically residing at the premises and expected to reside there for the entire billing period. It shall be assumed that a particular customer’s household is comprised of two (2) persons unless the customer notifies the City of a greater number of persons per household on a form prescribed by the City manager, or his/her designee. The City Manager, or his/her designee, shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every residential customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer’s responsibility to go to the City offices to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) persons per household. New customers may claim more persons per household at the time of applying for water service on the form prescribed by the City Manager, or his/her designee. When the number of persons per household increases so as to place the customer in a different allocation category, the customer may notify the City on such form and the change will be implemented in the next practicable billing period. If the number of persons in a household is reduced, the customer shall notify the City in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) persons per household, the City manager, or his/her designee, shall adopt methods to ensure the accuracy of the claim.

If a single-family residential dwelling exceeds its allocation, the customer responsible for the bill at such dwelling shall pay a surcharge of twelve (12) times the normal rate for water service, plus an additional surcharge of two (2) times the normal rate for water service for the amount that a billed residential premises exceeds its allocation plus five thousand (5,000) gallons.
2. Master-metered multi-family residential dwelling. The allocation to a customer billed from a master meter which jointly measures water to multiple permanent residential dwelling unit (e.g., apartments, mobile homes) shall be allocated six thousand (6,000) gallons per month for each dwelling unit. It shall be assumed that such a customer's meter serves two (2) dwelling units unless the customer notifies the City of a greater number on a form prescribed by the City Manager, or his/her designee. The City Manager, or his/her designee, shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every such customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer's responsibility to go to the City offices to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) dwellings. A dwelling unit may be claimed under this provision whether it is occupied or not. New customers may claim more dwelling units at the time of applying for water service on the form prescribed by the City Manager, or his/her designee. If the number of dwelling units served by a master meter is reduced, the customer shall notify the City in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) dwelling units, the City Manager, or his/her designee, shall adopt methods to ensure the accuracy of the claim.

If a master-metered multi-family residential dwelling exceeds its allocation, the customer responsible for the bill at such dwelling shall pay a surcharge of twelve (12) times the normal rate for water service, plus an additional surcharge of two (2) times the normal rate for water service for the amount that a billed master-metered multi-family residential dwelling exceeds the amount of twice its allocation.

3. Nonresidential customers. A monthly water usage allocation shall be established by the City Manager, or his/her designee, for each nonresidential customer. The nonresidential customer's allocation shall be approximately seventy-five (75) percent of the customer's usage for the corresponding month's billing period for the previous twelve (12) months. If the customer's billing history is shorter than twelve (12) months, the monthly average for the period for which there is a record shall be used for any monthly period for which no history exists. The nonresidential customer's allocation, who has less than twelve (12) months billing history, shall be seventy-five (75) percent of the customer's usage for the average monthly use. The City Manager, or his/her designee, shall give his/her best effort to see that a notice of each nonresidential customer's allocation is mailed to such customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such notice, it shall be the customer's responsibility to contact the City to determine the allocation. Upon request of the customer or at the initiative of the City Manager, or his/her designee, the allocation may be reduced or increased if:

(a) The designated period does not accurately reflect the customer's normal water usage;

(b) One nonresidential customer agrees to transfer part of its allocation to another nonresidential customer, or;

(c) Other objective evidence demonstrates that the designated allocation is inaccurate under present conditions.

A customer may appeal an allocation established hereunder to the City Manager, or his/her designee.

If a nonresidential customer exceeds its allocation, the customer responsible for the bill at the nonresidential unit shall pay a surcharge of twelve (12) times the normal rate for water service, plus an additional surcharge of two (2) times the normal rate for water service for the amount that the nonresidential customer exceeds the amount of one and one-third (1½) its allocation.

(Ord. No. 2017-1, § 1(Exh. A), 2-7-17)
Sec. 13-78. Enforcement.

A. During stages 1 through 5 and during water rationing, no person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water obtained from the City for a purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this plan, or in an amount in excess of that authorized by the City Manager pursuant to this section.

B. The Director of Public Works, after providing at least ten (10) days notice and an opportunity for hearing upon the written request of any customer responsible for a water account, may terminate the water service of any person who violates any provision of this section. Upon termination pursuant to this subsection, the customer's water service may only be reconnected after payment of a fee of two hundred dollars ($200.00).

C. In addition to other penalties provided herein, failure to comply with the requirements of this division shall subject a customer to criminal penalties in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500.00) per violation. Each violation that continues for or occurs upon more than one day shall constitute a separate violation for each day of violation.

D. The City plans to distribute educational materials annually at a time that corresponds with peak summer demand periods. The City further plans to provide new customers with drought contingency information and participate in other public education programs and campaigns, such as the "Water Awareness Day" that is hosted annually by the Golden Crescent District of the Texas Water Utilities Association. In addition, a copy of the City's drought contingency plan will be sent to the regional water planning groups for the service area encompassing the City to ensure consistency with the approved regional water plans. It shall not be a defense to prosecution pursuant to this section that the City provided or failed to provide any information or document to any entity or group.

(Ord. No. 2017-1 , § 1(Exh. A), 2-7-17)

Sec. 13-79. Exceptions.

Exceptions to the non-essential water use restrictions under any stage of the Drought Contingency Plan may be granted by the Director of Public Works and the City Manager, or a designee, for the following situations:

New Plantings - A 30-day exception is available for the initial establishment of new landscaping or plantings. In addition to the application fee, any water consumed during the 30-day exception will be billed at the established Conservation Rate as set forth in Chapter 24 of the Victoria City Code.

New Swimming Pool Initial Fill - An exception is available for the initial filling of a newly constructed or installed swimming pool. In addition to the application fee, the volume of water used to fill the pool will be billed at the established Conservation Rate as set forth in Chapter 24 of the Victoria City Code.

Power Washing - An exception is available for power washing of a residence or building in advance of painting or for parking lots where failure to wash them might result in a public nuisance or health threat.

All requests for an exception must be submitted to the Director of Public Works in writing on the appropriate request form and with the associated fee.

The Director of Public Works and the City Manager, or a designee, upon review of the application, may request additional information from the applicant, either by telephone or in writing.

The Director of Public Works shall issue a decision within ten working days of the receipt of the application.

The Director of Public Works will provide the applicant a written notice of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

(Ord. No. 2017-1 , § 1(Exh. A), 2-7-17)
Sec. 13-80. Exemptions.

After implementing any stage, the City Manager may grant temporary exemptions to the applicability of any particular stage to any particular customer if the City Manager determines that failure to grant such exemption would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such exemption. If a customer makes a written request for such an exemption, the City Manager may approve or deny said exemption after providing at least ten (10) days notice to the requestor of notice of consideration of such request and an opportunity for the requestor to be heard and present witnesses thereon.

(Ord. No. 2017-1 , § 1(Exh. A), 2-7-17)