

Rule 11 Drought Management

Rule 11.1 Determination of Waste

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Rule are considered to be nonessential and continuation of such uses during times of water restrictions, as defined herein, are deemed to constitute a waste of water. Person(s) violating these rules are subject to penalties as defined in District Rule 7, including Rule 7.1.A, which specifies that the District, as authorized by Texas Water Code 36.102, may assess civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000.00 per day per violation, and that each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation.

Adopted January 8, 2007 by Board Order 2007-001; effective January 8, 2007. Amended August 9, 2010 by Board Order 2010-016; effective August 12, 2010.

Rule 11.2 Applicability

11.2.A. The provisions of this Rule shall apply to all persons or organizations, public or private, having or operating wells, or person(s) utilizing groundwater within the District, regardless of purpose of use, size, capacity, and date of drilling or ownership of the wells, unless prohibited by 36.117(c), Texas Water Code Section.

11.2.B. The District recognizes that permittees within the district may have developed and utilize their own drought management plans. If a permittee has multiple water sources, the groundwater component must be in compliance with the current stage. The Permittee must either:

- (1) comply with this Rule 11,
- (2) or provide the District written documentation, as a requirement of the permit application or permit renewal application prior to permit issuance or renewal, which demonstrates to the District's satisfaction that the permittee's groundwater conservation measures are sufficient to meet the intent of, and be at least as restrictive as, this Rule.

The District shall make a determination of sufficiency based on information presented by the permittee and inform the permittee of such determinations in writing.

11.2.C. The restrictions set forth herein shall not apply to the uses of water to alleviate conditions threatening health, safety, or welfare of the public, the suppression of fires or the watering of landscape using solely grey water, surface water, harvested rain water or reclaimed water.

Adopted January 8, 2007 by Board Order 2007-001; effective January 8, 2007. Amended August 9, 2010 by Board Order 2010-016; effective August 12, 2010. Amended July 22, 2024, by Board Order 2024-002; effective July 22, 2024.

Rule 11.3 *Initiation and Determination of Drought Stages*

Each of the drought stages shall be initiated by action of the Board after analysis of the District's network of monitor wells, stream flow in the Guadalupe River, cumulative rainfall and/or other factors as deemed appropriate by the Board and shall remain in effect for a minimum of thirty (30) days. Mandatory percentage reductions in groundwater use under this Rule 11.3 shall not apply to health and safety uses, such as sanitation and firefighting.

11.3.A. Year-Round Best Management Practices

All well owners and users of groundwater will minimize the use of groundwater especially for non-essential uses year-round through good water use and water conservation practices.

- (1) No sprinkler shall be operated between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Automatic sprinklers shall be equipped with rain sensors.
- (2) All ornamental fountains and water features shall be closed loop recirculating systems.

- (3) All leaks shall be repaired immediately (some corrective action taken within 24 hours of notification).
- (4) Leak proof troughs shall be used to provide water for livestock. Water troughs or any water receptacles with mechanical float controls shall be routinely inspected and properly maintained to prevent leaks and waste of water.
- (5) Foundation watering shall be accomplished by a drip system or a hand-held hose and may be done any day before 10:00 A.M.
- (6) A positive shutoff valve shall be used when car washing.
- (7) Swimming pools, when not in active use, should have at least 80% of some form of surface cover to limit the evaporation of water.
- (8) The District encourages the use of reclaimed, recycled, or re-use water for construction activities.
- (9) Groundwater may be added to pools to replace water lost due to use or evaporation.

11.3.B. Stage 1

- (1) Water Reduction for Permitted Users – Mandatory 10% reduction in groundwater use or as specified in the operating permit.
- (2) All other users must implement the following conservation practices:
 - (a) Lawn and turf grass watering by hose-end sprinklers, automatic sprinklers, soaker hoses, or drip system is allowed before 10:00 A.M. and after 8:00 P.M. No sprinklers or sprinkler systems are allowed between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Handheld hoses or hand-held buckets are allowed at any time.
 - (b) Home vegetable and fruit gardens may be watered at any time with a drip system, hand-held hose or hand-held buckets. Sprinklers are allowed only before 10:00 A.M. or after 8:00 P.M.
 - (c) Pools may be filled with groundwater.
 - (d) Exempt domestic and livestock wells are allowed to supplement surface impoundments, fountains, and ornamental ponds based on the District's watering schedule.

| Day of the Week | Address ends with # |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Monday | 0 or 1 |
| Tuesday | 2 or 3 |
| Wednesday | 4 or 5 |
| Thursday | 6 or 7 |
| Friday | 8 or 9 |

11.3.C. Stage 2

- (1) Water Reduction for Permitted Users – Mandatory 20% reduction in groundwater use or as specified in the operating permit.
- (2) All other users must implement the following conservation practices.
 - (a) Lawn and turf grass watering by hose-end sprinklers, automatic sprinklers, soaker hoses, or drip system is allowed one day a week based on the District's watering schedule as provided in Rule 11.3.B. Sprinklers are allowed on the watering day before 10:00 A.M. and after 8:00 P.M. No sprinklers or sprinkler systems are allowed between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.
 - (b) Hand-held hoses or hand-held buckets are allowed at any time.
 - (c) Home vegetable and fruit gardens may be watered at any time with a drip system, hand-held hose or hand-held buckets. Sprinklers are allowed only before 10:00 A.M. or after 8:00 P.M.
 - (d) Use of groundwater to fill or refill swimming pools is prohibited except on designated watering days during the designated watering hours. Groundwater may be added to pools to replace water lost due to use or evaporation.
 - (e) Water from exempt domestic and livestock wells may be used to supplement surface impoundments, fountains, and ornamental ponds on designated watering days before 10:00 A.M. and after 8:00 P.M.

11.3.D. Stage 3

- (1) Water Reduction for Permitted Users – Mandatory 30% reduction in groundwater use or as specified in the operating permit.
- (2) All other users must implement the following conservation practices, as imposed by the Board when it initiates this Stage.
 - (a) Lawn and turf grass watering by hose-end sprinklers, automatic sprinklers, soaker hoses, or drip system is not allowed. Lawn and turf grass watering must be accomplished by hand-held hose on designated watering days before 10:00 A.M. and after 8:00 P.M.
 - (b) Hand-held hoses or hand-held buckets are allowed any day before 10:00 A.M. and after 8:00 P.M. for landscape other than lawns and turf grass.
 - (c) Home vegetable and fruit gardens may be watered any day before 10:00 A.M. or after 8:00 P.M. with a drip system, hand-held hose or hand-held buckets.
 - (d) The use of groundwater to fill and refill pools, other than portable wading pools, is prohibited. Groundwater may be added to pools to replace water lost due to use or evaporation.
 - (e) The use of groundwater to fill ponds, lakes, tanks, fountains, ornamental ponds, reservoirs or other surface impoundments is prohibited. The operation, other than for basic filtration and/or recirculation, of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited. Surface impoundments with less than 250 square feet of surface area may add groundwater only to replace water lost due to evaporation.
 - (f) Other measures deemed necessary by the Board to protect public health and safety.

11.3.E. Drought Emergency

- (1) Water reduction for permitted users – Mandatory 40% reduction in groundwater use or as specified in the operating permit.
- (2) Community water systems and retail water utilities using groundwater are prohibited from allowing or approving the use of groundwater for additional, expanded or increase-in-size water

service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains or water service facilities of any kind. In the event of system failure, the water supply will be managed by such measures necessary to maintain public health and safety, including elimination of service to part or all of the water system.

- (3) Irrigation of hay crops is prohibited, unless specified in an operating permit.
- (4) The conservation practices from Stage 3 shall remain in effect and mandatory unless a more stringent rule is imposed by the Board when it initiates this Stage.
 - (a) No lawn or turf grass watering is allowed with groundwater at any time by any means.
 - (b) Hand-held hoses or hand-held buckets are allowed any day before 10:00 A.M. and after 8:00 P.M. for landscape other than lawns and turf grass.
 - (c) Home vegetable and fruit gardens may be watered before 10:00 A.M. or after 8:00 P.M. with a drip system, hand-held hose or hand-held buckets only.
 - (d) The use of groundwater to fill or refill pools, other than portable wading pools, is prohibited. Groundwater may be added to pools to replace water lost due to use or evaporation only on the designated watering day.
 - (e) Filling of ponds, lakes, tanks, fountains, ornamental ponds, reservoirs or other surface impoundments with groundwater is prohibited. Surface impoundments with less than 250 square feet of surface area may add groundwater only to replace water lost due to evaporation.
 - (f) Use of groundwater for construction activities is prohibited, unless authorized by an operating permit.
 - (g) Use of groundwater to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or any other mobile vehicle is prohibited.
 - (h) The issuance of new well drilling permits, operating permits and amendments may be suspended except to replace an existing well.

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