

STAGE 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions (Mandatory Measures)

A. Supply Management Measures:

1. DSWSC will aggressively reduce system water loss by measures such as fixing leaks, replacing old meters, and recycling line flush water, as appropriate for the utility system.
2. DSWSC will actively communicate drought-related issues, including the current and projected water supply conditions, water supply restrictions and the need to conserve to its retail customers.
3. In addition to measures implemented in the preceding stages of the plan, DSWSC will explore additional emergency water supply options.

B. Demand Management Measures: Under threat of penalty, all retail customers are required to further reduce non-essential water uses as follows. All requirements within Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3, with the following modifications and additions.

1. Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:

Irrigation of ornamental landscaped areas is limited to the following restrictions:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems, except for drip irrigation, shall be limited to a no more than a ONCE weekly watering schedule as determined by [Water Customer Name].
- b. Outdoor watering hours for spray irrigation will be limited to **six hours** a day, before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m. on designated days as determined by [Water Customer Name] (see recommended schedule in Appendix A). This prohibition does not apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:
 - i. a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off device; or
 - ii. a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five gallons or less.
- c. New Landscapes may only be installed if:
 - i. a 30-day watering schedule variance has been applied for and accepted.
 - ii. no more than 50% of the irrigated landscaped area is water conserving natural turf.
 - iii. only drought tolerant or native plants are installed.
 - iv. drip irrigation with an automatic timer is installed in all beds.
- d. Revegetation of disturbed areas due to construction is allowed, if required by local, State, or Federal regulations. A temporary watering variance must be granted by DSWSC.

2. Vehicle Washing:

Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, such as a motorbike, boat, trailer, or airplane is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Such activity, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle. A vehicle can be washed at any time at a commercial car wash facility or commercial service station that recycles its water. Further, this activity is exempt from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are served by washing the vehicle, such as a truck used to collect garbage or used to transport food and perishables.

3. Pools:

- a. Draining and re-filling is permitted only onto pervious surfaces or onto a surface where water will be transmitted directly to a pervious surface, and only if:
 - i. Draining excess water from pool due to rain in order to lower water to maintenance level;
 - ii. Repairing, maintaining, or replacing pool components that have become hazardous; or
 - iii. Repair of a pool leak.

- b. Public/community swimming pools are allowed to fill or replenish water in order to maintain safe levels of water quality for human contact and for maintenance as outlined above.

4. Outside Water Features:

- a) Operation of outside water features except for ornamental fountains with a 4 inch emission or fall of water¹ that are recirculating, is prohibited, except where such features are used for aeration necessary to sustain aquatic life or maintain water quality. (This provision includes fountains associated with aesthetic ponds and swimming pools).
- b) Operation of residential aesthetic or recreational devices, such as water slides, is prohibited.
- c) Operation of outdoor misting systems at a commercial facility is prohibited except between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- d) Any commercial business or HOA that utilizes on-site beneficial reuse shall be exempt during declared DSWSC Drought Stages 2 and 3 regarding: splash pad sites, water slides, or recreational water devices.

¹ Adopted from the City of Austin's 2012 Drought Contingency Plan update, which went through an extensive public input process. This measure was proposed by the fountain industry through that process.

5. Ponds:

Ponds used for aesthetic, amenity, and/or storm water purposes may maintain water levels only necessary to preserve the integrity of the liner and operating system and meet the LCRA Highland Lakes Ordinance or other applicable non-point source pollution regulation. DSWSC may request specific design documentation regarding a pond and the intended purpose.

6. Golf Course:

Golf courses receiving any amount of treated water from a DSWSC utility must either develop a drought contingency plan in accordance with DSWSC Drought Contingency Plan and will implement its Stage 3 mandatory restrictions in conjunction with the water provider or adopt the LCRA sample golf course drought contingency plan.

7. Events:

Events involving the use of water such as: car washes; festivals; parties; water slides; and other activities involving the use of water are prohibited.

8. Recreational areas (includes municipal parks and common areas):

Irrigation of recreational areas with potable water must follow the 6-hour weekly irrigation schedule outlined in section B1 and watering of recreational areas should be prioritized by frequency of use. Unnecessary foot traffic should be discouraged. Watering using an auxiliary source such as recycled water is exempt from these restrictions.

9. Athletic fields

The DSWSC must require a variance for irrigation of athletic fields if irrigation falls outside of the normal watering schedule. Fields should only be irrigated that are being actively used for organized sports practice, competition, or exhibition events when the irrigation is necessary to protect the health and safety of the players, staff, or officials present for the athletic event.

- a) All ornamental landscape areas around facilities with athletic fields shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions.

10. Water Waste

The following additional non-essential uses of water are prohibited at all times during periods in which restrictions have gone into effect.

- a) Pressure washing is prohibited but variances may be granted by DSWSC on the designated watering day for health and safety purposes only. Pressure washing equipment must be fitted with a spray nozzle that does not use more than 3.5 gallons of water per minute and has a trigger shut-off.

11. Fire Hydrants:

Use of water from fire hydrants shall be prohibited for landscape irrigation, filling pools, operating fountains, car washing. Water should be transported only for the purposes of firefighting or providing minimal water needed for indoor use where auxiliary sources are inadequate and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare, or for construction use. Transport of water other than for firefighting requires a variance and a meter.