

For Immediate Release

S.S. WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGE 2

IMPLEMENTATION

The President of the Board of Directors of S.S. Water Supply Corporation (SSWSC) has authorized the implementation of Drought Response Plan Stage 2 (hereafter referred to as “Stage 2”) per the recommendation of the General Manager. Stage 2 effective dates are expected to be 10 August 2023 - 31 October 2023. Notice is posted in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations and SSWSC’s Tariff, which is on file with the Texas Public Utilities Commission.

BACKGROUND

To ensure adequate, treated water availability for all Members on our system, SSWSC adopted year-round water use restrictions under Stage 0. Chief among the restrictions listed in both Stages 0 and 1 are the requirement to only irrigate landscapes on the two days designated to each household, based on the last number of the physical home address. However, despite these conservation requirements being in place water use has drastically increased across the system.

The Corporation sources and treats all the ground water used in our system subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District. The water is pumped from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and distributed to serve over 20,000 people across 7,000+ connections. But before that water is ready for use, it must be sufficiently treated for both potability and palatability. If the water that is ready for distribution in our elevated and ground storage tanks gets depleted faster than we can replenish it, we run the risk of having one or more of these tanks getting empty. Additionally, the near constant demand on our pumps and motors to keep our storage tanks filled can cause those to continuously run up to automatic shutdown conditions 7 days a week before being forced to stop due to failure. This is obviously an undesirable outcome for our Membership and customers, and can result in insufficient water/low water pressure available for first responder and firefighting use. Furthermore, the amount of water being pumped to meet the demands imposed on the distribution system as of late has exceeded the amount of water SS Water is allowed to pump per day under EUWCD rules.

SSWSC’s water supply system is designed to supply water for residential/in-home use that is already 1.5 times greater than what the State of Texas mandates, but it was not designed to support the heavy irrigation and pool-fill use we have been seeing. **Put another way, SS Water simply cannot support the unlimited use of treated, potable water for purposes other than human and livestock consumption; especially when most of our Membership’s monthly water usage averages 10,000 gallons a month or less.**

To maintain sufficient potable water supplies for all Members and customers, and given that the triggering criteria for implementing Drought Response Plan Stage 2 have been met, the following conditions governing the use of SSWSC-supplied water are in effect, effecting **10 August 2023**:

Stage 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a 25 percent reduction in total maximum daily water demand.

(a) Water Use Restrictions. Under threat of penalty for violation, the following mandatory water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

1) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to one day per week: Saturdays for customers with a physical address ending in 0, 1 or 2; Sundays for customers with a physical address ending in 3, 4 or 5; Wednesdays for customers with a physical address ending in 6 or 7; and Thursdays for customers with a physical address ending in 8 or 9. Irrigation of landscaped areas is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on all 7 days of the week. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation systems.

2) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. 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 are 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 on designated watering days, but prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

4) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a re-circulation system.

5) Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, 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 Corporation.

6) Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except on designated watering days and prohibited between the hours 10:00 a.m. and 8 p.m.

7) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to its patrons except when requested.

8) The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:

§ wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;

§ use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;

§ use of water for dust control;

§ flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and

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

(b) Violations and Penalties:

1) First Violation: The customer/member will be given written notice of their specific violation and their need to comply with the tariff rules. The notice will include a list of penalties to be assessed for continued violations.

2) Second Violation: The member/customer will be assessed a \$60 penalty for this violation.

3) Third Violation: The member/customer will be assessed a \$100 penalty for this violation.

4) Fourth Violation: The member/Customer will be assessed a \$150 penalty and the Corporation personnel will install a flow restrictor at the member's meter. The member will be charged an additional \$50 for the installation plus the cost of the flow restrictor.

5) Subsequent Violations: The member will be assessed a \$250 penalty.

NOTE: All fees collected as penalties will be deposited in the Corporation's Capital Improvement Fund that will enhance the water supply for all corporation members.

SSWSC is requesting that all Members and customers adhere to the water use conditions described herein. If water consumption continues to be above projections, additional water conservation measures may be placed into effect to ensure sufficient supply for both residential, livestock, and public safety use. Thank you for your attention in this matter, and if you have any questions, please call our office or email us at csr@sswater.net.

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