

For Immediate Release

S.S. WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGE 2

IMPLEMENTATION

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 **16 July 20 – 31 Oct 20**. Notice is posted in accordance with SSWSC’s Tariff, which is on file with the Texas Public Utilities Commission.

BACKGROUND

SSWSC has been experiencing record water usage throughout the system. There are a number of reasons for this, but chief among those are the fact that more folks are home for longer periods of time, and the essentially unrestrained use of water despite mandatory year-round water conservation measures being in place (Stage 0). SSWSC’s water supply system is designed to supply water for residential/in-home use that is 1.5 times greater than what the state mandates, but that excess capacity is rapidly being depleted. *While we fully understand that the times we currently find ourselves in are anything but normal, the fact remains that we simply cannot support the (historically) elevated use of treated, potable water for purposes other than human consumption or sustaining life.*

To illustrate the kind of use we are seeing, during the weekend of July 4-6 SSWSC pumped over 3.5M gallons/day out of the Carrizo Aquifer for 2 of those 3 days (July 4th was 3.4M gallons/day). Then, from July 11-13 we saw the highest pumping levels ever recorded for SSWSC; *totaling nearly 12,000,000 gallons over three days, with 4,059,000 gallons pumped on July 13th alone.* Given those use levels, several of our storage tanks were not able to refill overnight due to extremely high demand:

- CR 319 storage tanks normal level **35’**; July 6 level **22.5’**; July 7 level **31.2’**
- Lost Trails elevated storage tank normal level **82’**; July 6 level **62’**; July 7 level **67’**.

Additionally, as of July 7th over one third (2,394) of the accounts SSWSC services used between 30,000-340,000+ gallons of treated water between April 1st and July 7th, averaging 21,900 gallons/month. The average monthly Member usage is 6,000-11,000 gallons/month.

To ensure 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 (total water demand exceeding 3M gallons/day for three consecutive days; 3.5M gallons pumped on one day; water reservoir levels not refilling above 90% overnight), the following conditions governing the use of SSWSC-supplied water are in effect, starting **16 July 2020**:

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 use projections, additional water conservation measures may be placed into effect to ensure sufficient supply for both residential 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 customer.service@sswater.net.

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