

Drought Contingency Plan

For a Retail Public Water Supplier

Approved April 9, 2011, Amended October 23, 2023

Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation (MMWSC)

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Permits:
Certificate of Convenience & Necessity (CCN) No. 12395
Public Water System (PWS) No. TX0720012

Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

To conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and to minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section XI of this Plan.

Section II: Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation by means of a public meeting held Saturday, April 09, 2011, at the Morgan Mill Water Office. Plan was amended October 23, 2023 at the public Board Meeting.

Section III: Public Education

The Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of: a notice published on the MMWSC website; text or email alerts for those members who have enrolled in the Alerts program through the website; utility bill inserts, and a sign posted at the Morgan Mill Water Office.

Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of the Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation is located within the Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. The Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation has a copy of these plans on file at the Water Office and the MMWSC website.

Section V: Authorization

The Morgan Mill Water Board is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Morgan Mill Water Board shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

Section VI: Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the Morgan Mill Water Supply Corporation. The terms person and customer as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

Section VII: Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments and schools.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by MMWSC.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence or business.

Household: the residential premises served by the customer's meter. "Persons per household" include only those persons physically residing at the premises and expected to reside there for the current billing period.

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

Non-essential water use: water uses that are neither essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, and athletic fields, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;

- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leaks(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purpose other than firefighting.

Section VIII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The MMWSC President or his/her designee shall monitor the U.S. Drought Monitor and Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District drought information and the MMWSC Operator or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a weekly basis and shall inform the board when conditions warrant initiation or termination of the following Trigger Stages of the Plan. The triggering criteria described below are based on known system capacity limits.

Stage 1 Triggers – MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for Initiation

Customers may be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section X, when the specific capacity of the MMSWC wells is equal or less than 70% of the well's original capacity.

Requirements for Termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when the triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive weeks.

Stage 2 Triggers- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for Initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses, provided in Section X, when the specific capacity of the MMSWC wells is equal or less than 50% of the well's original capacity.

Requirements for Termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when the triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 2 consecutive weeks. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

Stage 3 Triggers- Critical Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section X of this Plan when: 1) the specific capacity of the MMSWC wells is equal to or less than 25% of the well's original capacity; 2) during major water line breaks; 3) when pump or system failures occur, which cause significant loss of capability to provide water service; or, 4) if natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s) occurs.

Requirements for Termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when triggering condition 1 has ceased to exist for a period of 2 consecutive weeks. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative. For triggering events 2-4, stage 3 will be rescinded when the triggering events are resolved.

Section IX: Notifications

When conditions warrant initiation or termination of the one of Trigger Stages listed in section VIII, the MMWSC President or his/her designee shall notify the public by means of one or more of the following: a notice published on the MMWSC website; text or email alerts for those members who have enrolled in the Alerts program through the website; local community Facebook pages, utility bill inserts, and a sign posted at the Morgan Mill Water Office and Post Office. In addition, TECQ and major water users will be notified directly when mandatory restrictions are imposed.

Section X: Response to Trigger Stages

Stage 1 Response – MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a voluntary 25% reduction in total water use

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: Additional measures will be implemented by the MMWSC to manage limited water supply such as reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains.

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions to Reduce Demand:

- (a) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize water use for non-essential purposes as listed in section VII.
- (b) All Customers are requested to voluntarily limit irrigation to landscape areas to night hours between 8 p.m. and 7 am. Irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time by means of a hand-held hose, faucet-filled bucket or water can of 5 gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.

Stage 2 Response - MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 50 % reduction in total water use

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: Additional measures will be implemented by the MMWSC to manage limited water supply such as reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions to Reduce Demand:

- (a) All Customers are required to limit irrigation to landscape areas to night hours between 8 p.m. and 7 am. Irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time by means of a hand-held hose, faucet-filled bucket or water can of 5 gallons or less, or drip irrigation system;
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, or other vehicle is prohibited except by use of a hand-held bucket or hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle and that water is not allowed to run freely except during wetting or rinsing vehicle;
- (c) Use of water to fill empty swimming pools is prohibited. Use of water to top-off any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, filling of wading pools, or jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except during night hours between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.;
- (d) Irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields and cemeteries except via drip irrigation systems are prohibited;
- (e) Use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced area, and flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter, street, or ditch, unless necessary to maintain public health and safety, is prohibited.
- (f) Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection is prohibited;
- (g) 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 recirculation system;
- (h) Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare;
- (i) Use of water sprays for dust control, including but not limited to, roads, construction sites, arenas and agricultural areas are prohibited;
- (j) Repair of controllable leak upon discovery or notification of such leaks is required promptly as is practicable is required;

Customers are required to reduce consumption by 50 % for all water use above the household allocations listed below. Household means the residential premises served by the customer’s meter. Persons per household include only those persons currently physically residing at the premises and expected to reside there the entire billing period.

Household Allocations:	<u>Single-family Residential Customers</u>	<u>Gallons per Month</u>
	Persons per Household	
	1 or 2	5,000
	3 or 4	10,000
	5 or more	12,000

Penalties: Customers will be charged \$50 for each 500 gallons over the calculated 50% reduction. Penalties will be based on the customer’s average monthly water use prorated for the duration of the Stage 2 event to determine if the 50% reduction has been achieved. Surcharges shall be cumulative. Average monthly use data for individual meters is available at the MMWSC office.

Commercial Customers:

Commercial Customers are required to reduce consumption by 50% for all water use. Commercial customers will be charged \$50 for each 500 gallons above the calculated level. Penalties will be based on the customer’s average monthly water use prorated for the duration of the Stage 3 event to determine if the 50% reduction has been achieved. Surcharges shall be cumulative. Average monthly use data for individual meters is available at the MMWSC office.

Stage 3 Response – Critical Water Shortage Conditions

Target 75% reduction in Water Use

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: Additional measures will be implemented by the MMWSC to manage limited water supply such as reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains. If there is a severe loss of the system’s capacity to supply essential water for 12 or more hours, the MMWSC will coordinate with other agencies for arrangements for purchase of water from other sources for essential uses.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions to Reduce Demand:

All requirements of stage 3 shall remain in effect except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas, lawns, gardens, pastures or crops is absolutely prohibited.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle. Motorbike, boat, trailer or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.
- (c) No application for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be approved, and time limits for approval of such applications are hereby suspended as long as Stage 3 conditions are in effect.

Customers are required to reduce consumption by 75% for all water use above the essential allocations listed below. In the event, that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the MMWS is hereby authorized to require reduction in household water use according to the following essential water allocation plan:

Essential Allocations:	<u>Single-family Residential Customers</u>	<u>Gallons per Month</u>
	Persons per Household	
	1 or 2	4,000
	3 or 4	8,000
	5 or more	12,000

For single-family residences served by the customer’s meter, persons per household include only those persons currently physically residing at the premises and expected to reside there the entire billing period.

Penalties: Customers will be charged \$100 for each 500 gallons over the calculated 75% reduction. Penalties will be based on the customer’s average monthly water use prorated for the duration of the Stage 3 event to determine if the 75% reduction has been achieved. Surcharges shall be cumulative. Average monthly use data for individual meters is available at the MMWSC office.

Commercial Customers:

Commercial Customers are required to reduce consumption by 75% for all water use. Commercial customers will be charged \$100 for each 500 gallons above the calculated level. Penalties will be based on the customer's average monthly water use prorated for the duration of the Stage 3 event to determine if the 75% reduction has been achieved. Surcharges shall be cumulative. Average monthly use data for individual meters is available at the MMWSC office.

Section XI: Enforcement

(a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the MMWSC in an amount in excess for that permitted by the by the drought response stage in effect at the time action is taken by the MMWSC Board and public notification is provided per section IX.

(b) No person shall knowingly or intentionally misrepresent the number of persons residing in a household during the duration of a drought response stage at the time action is taken by the MMWSC Board and public notification is provided per section IX.

(b) For any customer who violates this Plan, the MMSWC may install a flow restriction device in the customer's service line. The customer shall be liable for costs of installation and removal of the device not to exceed \$100.

(c) Any customer who violates the Plan may have service discontinued to their premises if fines/surcharges are not paid within 60 days. Services disconnected under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of the fines/surcharges plus a reconnection charge of \$50 and any other costs incurred by the MMWSC in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurances must be given to the MMWSC that the same action shall not be repeated while the plan is in effect.

(d) Any person classified as a water customer of the MMWSC in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator.

Section XII: Variances

The MMWSC Board, may, in writing, grant temporary variances for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variances would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, of fire protection for the public or the person requesting the variance. Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Plan shall file a variance petition with the MMWSC within 5 days after the Plan or particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the MMWSC Board, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s);
- (b) Purpose of the water use;
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief;
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with the provision(s);
- (e) Description of the relief requested;
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.