

LCRA Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers

**LCRA Board of Directors Meeting
March 26, 2024**



Proposed Drought Contingency Plan

- **What's new?**

- Mandatory drought response begins at 1.1 million acre-feet rather than at 900,000 acre-feet
- Inflows trigger applied on March 1 and July 1 for Stage 2 to initiate water use reductions sooner in very dry conditions
- New drought contingency plan stage added between 900,000 acre-feet and 600,000 acre-feet
- Minimum measures at each stage to promote consistency across the region (e.g., maximum once-per-week watering schedule)

Messaging Outside of Defined Drought Contingency Plan Stages

- **Conservation stage**

- Requires permanent watering schedule of no more than twice per week
- LCRA drought messaging begins at 1.4 million acre-feet combined storage

Proposed Drought Contingency Plan Stages

- **Stage 1**

- Combined storage below 1.1 million acre-feet and interruptible stored water for non-Garwood Agricultural Division operations is curtailed
- Customers to implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 10%
- Increase drought messaging
- Criteria for exiting Stage 1 is 1.2 million acre-feet combined storage

Proposed Drought Contingency Plan Stages (Continued)

- Stage 2
 - Combined storage below 900,000 acre-feet and interruptible stored water for non-Garwood operations is curtailed **OR**
 - Inflow trigger: On March 1 or July 1, cumulative prior three months of inflows are below 25th percentile and combined storage below 1.1 million acre-feet
 - Customers to implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 20%
 - Customers to implement maximum once-per-week watering schedule
 - Criteria for exiting Stage 2 is 1.1 million acre-feet combined storage

Proposed Drought Contingency Plan Stages (Continued)

- **Stage 3**

- Combined storage below 750,000 acre-feet
- Customers to implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 25%
- Customers continue implementing maximum once-per-week watering with no more than six hours per week of automatic irrigation
- Criteria for exiting Stage 3 is 825,000 acre-feet combined storage

Proposed Drought Contingency Plan Stages (Continued)

- **Stage 4**
 - Combined storage below 600,000 acre-feet
 - LCRA Board declares “Drought Worse Than Drought of Record”
 - All interruptible stored water is cut off
 - Water use reduction goal of 30%
 - 20% mandatory pro rata curtailment for firm customers
 - Customers to prohibit irrigation of ornamental turf; handheld hose watering of foundations, trees and vegetable gardens is allowed
 - LCRA Board sets criteria to exit Stage 4, or increase mandatory pro rata curtailment percentage if conditions worsen

Drought Contingency Plan – Related Documents

- **Drought Contingency Plan Rules for Firm Water Customers**
 - Requirements for customers' Drought Contingency Plans
- **LCRA Drought Contingency Plan for Domestic, Temporary, and Landscape Irrigation and Recreational Contracts**
 - Applies directly to these end users

Drought Contingency Plan – Summary of Public Comments

- **LCRA received 20 submissions during the open comment period**
 - Five from customers with municipal use contracts
 - Seven domestic use customers
 - Seven individuals without contracts
 - Central Texas Water Coalition
- **Updated staff proposal includes clarifications to outdoor watering restrictions**

Drought Contingency Plan Schedule

- **November 2023 – Firm customer meeting**
- **January 2024 – Board Water Operations Committee presentation**
- **January-February 2024 – One-on-one discussions with many firm customers**
- **Feb. 23-March 13, 2024 – Proposed plan open for public comment**
- **March 2024 – Present plan to LCRA Board for action**
- **April 2024 – LCRA customers incorporate changes to their drought contingency plans**
- **By May 1, 2024 – LCRA submits plan to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**




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