SECTION G.

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY AND EMERGENCY WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

1 INTRODUCTION

The goal of this plan is to cause a reduction in water use in response to drought or emergency conditions so that the water availability can be preserved. Since emergency conditions can occur rapidly, responses must also be enacted quickly. This plan has been prepared in advance considering conditions that will initiate and terminate the rationing program.

A Drought/Emergency Management Committee consisting of two Board Members and the System Manager will monitor usage patterns and public education efforts and will make recommendations to the Board on future conservation efforts, demand management procedures or any changes to this plan. The Committee will develop public awareness notices, bill stuffers, and other methods that will begin and continue as a constant type of reminder that water should be conserved at all times, not just during a drought or emergency. This Committee will also review and evaluate any needed amendments or major changes due to changes in the WSC service area population, distribution system or supply. This review and evaluation will be done on a regular basis of five years unless conditions necessitate more frequent amendments.

Section 4 describes the conditions that will trigger these stages.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the Board by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan. Notice of the meeting was provided to all customers. In the adoption of this plan, the Board considered all comments from customers.

3. COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

Being located within the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the Hwy 90 Ranch WSC will expend every effort to coordinate with the EAA as well as with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the management of our water resources. The plan will be implemented according to the five stages of rationing as imposed by the EAA and the Board of Directors of the Hwy90 Ranch WSC. A copy of this Plan has been provided to those Regional Water Planning Group.

4. TRIGGER CONDITIONS

The Drought Emergency Management Committee is responsible for monitoring water supply and demand conditions on a monthly basis (or more frequently if conditions warrant) and shall determine

when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan, that is, when the specified triggers are reached. The Committee will monitor monthly operating reports, water supply or storage tank levels and/or rainfall as needed to determine when trigger conditions are reached. The triggering conditions described below take into consideration: the vulnerability of the water source under drought of record conditions; the production, treatment and distribution capacities of the system, and member usage based upon historical patterns.

CRITICAL PERIOD STAGES.
(TRIGGER CONDITIONS)

Reduction	J17 Well Level (MSL)	San Marcos Springs	Comal Springs
Stage *	10-day average is less than	10-day average is less than	10-day average is less than
Stage 1 Demand Management	660 feet	96 CFS	225 CFS
Stage 2 Demand Management	650 feet	80 CFS	200 CFS
Stage 3 Critical Period	640 feet	N/A	150 CFS
Stage 4 Critical Period	630 feet	N/A	100 CFS
Stage 5 Critical Period	625 Feet	N/A	45/40**

*As declared by the Edwards Aquifer Authority for the San Antonio Pool (includes Medina County).

**San Antonio Pool only: In order to enter into Critical Period Stage V, the applicable spring flow trigger is either less than 45 cfs based on a ten-day rolling average or less than 40 cfs based on a three-day rolling average. Expiration of Critical Period stage V is based on a ten-day rolling average of 45 cfs or greater.

TABLE REDUCTION LEVELS

In compliance with the Edwards Aquifer Authority regulations on Demand Management and Critical Period Management, the following EAA reduction percentages will apply.

Reduction	**51.56 AF/Annual Cap**	**Water Available for Use**	**Gallons of Water Available per meter per month**
Stage	Interruption Coefficient	**51.56 AF/Cap**	**123 meters**
Stage 1 **Mild Conditions**	20%	**41.248 AF/Cap**	**9106**
Stage 2 **Moderate Conditions**	30%	**36.09 AF/Cap**	**7967**
Stage 3 **Severe Conditions**	35%	**33.5 AF/Cap**	**7396**
Stage 4 **Critical Conditions**	40%	**30.94 AF/Cap**	**6831**
Stage 5 **Exceptional Conditions**	44%	**28.87 AF/Cap**	**6374**

a. **Stage I - Mild Conditions:** Stage 1 begins when the 10-day rolling average of the aquifer level drops to 660 feet mean sea level at the monitored well.

b. **Stage II - Moderate Conditions:** Stage 2 begins when the 10-day rolling average of the aquifer level drops to 650 feet mean sea level at the monitored well.

c. **Stage III - Severe Conditions:** Stage 3 begins when the 10-day rolling average of the aquifer level drops to 640 feet mean sea level at the monitored well.

d. **Stage IV - Critical Conditions:** Stage 4 begins when the 10-day rolling average of the aquifer level drops to 630 feet mean sea level at the monitored well.

e. **Stage V - Exceptional Conditions:** Stage 5 begins when the 10-day rolling average of the aquifer level drops to 625 feet mean sea level at the monitored well.

5. STAGE LEVELS OF WATER ALOCATIONS

The stage levels of water allocations are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Section 4. The System shall institute monitoring and enforce penalties for violations of the Drought Plan for each of the Stages listed below. Due to the proximity to the San Antonio area, we are relying on SAWS guidelines. The water allocation measures are summarized below.

Year-Round Restrictions:

Year-round watering rules are in effect when the City of San Antonio is NOT under any specific drought restrictions.

- Under Year-Round guidelines, all fountains - whether commercial or residential, or indoor or outdoor - are allowed.
- Landscape watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is permitted any day of the week before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Hand watering with a hand-held hose, drip irrigation, soaker hose or bucket is permitted any time of day.
- Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is permitted without runoff to avoid water waste.
- Water waste is prohibited at all times. Allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain or failing to repair a controllable leak is considered water waste.
- Residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural Edwards Aquifer water users should use common sense and best practices to avoid water waste.
- The use of commercial vehicle wash facilities is permitted any day.

a. Stage I - Mild Conditions

- Water waste is prohibited at all times. Water waste includes allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain; or failing to repair a controllable leak.
- Watering with a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can is allowed any time and any day.
- Watering with drip irrigation is permitted Monday/Wednesday/Friday, but only from midnight to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight.
- Watering days begin and end at midnight; overnight watering is not allowed.

- You should reduce water consumption by any means available.
- All non-public swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered with evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used.
- All residential fountains and indoor commercial fountains can operate at any stage of drought.
- Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions to this rule may be requested from the Board.
- Residential car washing allowed during drought once per week on Saturday or Sunday as long as there is no water waste.
- Drought Surcharge: For residential and commercial accounts, there is a Drought Surcharge which begins at Stage 1. This surcharge may be found in the Highway 90 Ranch Water Supply Corporation Ratc Schedule, Collection Regulations, and Charges. The first level surcharge will take effect for water use above 20,001 to 30,000 gallon a month.
- Watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week from midnight to 10 a.m. or 9 p.m. to midnight on your designated watering day. Areas without a street address, such as medians and neighborhood entryways, water on Wednesday.

Last Digit of Address	Day
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

b. **Stage II - Moderate Conditions**

- All restrictions from Stage 1 remain in effect, unless added to or replaced by Stage 2 rules
- Watering with a 5-gallon bucket is permitted any day, but only between 5-10 a.m. and 9 p.m.-midnight.
- Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.
- Watering with drip irrigation is permitted Monday/Friday, but only 5-10 a.m. and 9 p.m.-midnight.
- All residential fountains and indoor commercial fountains can operate at any stage of drought.
- All non-public swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered with evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used for this purpose.
- Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions to this rule may be requested from the Board.
- Residential car washing allowed during drought once per week on Saturday or Sunday as long as there is no water waste.
- Drought Surcharge: For residential and commercial accounts, there is a Drought Surcharge which begins at Stage 1. This surcharge may be found in the Highway 90 Ranch Water Supply

Corporation Ratc Schedule, Collection Regulations, and Charges. The first level surcharge will take effect for water use above 20,001 to 30,000 gallon a month.

- Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week from 5-10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight on your designated watering day, as determined by your address. Areas without a street address, use your lot number.

Last Digit of Address	Day
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

c. **Stage III - Severe Conditions**

- All restrictions from Stage 1 and Stage 2 remain in effect unless added to or replaced by Stage 3 rules. Watering with drip irrigation is allowed every Monday and Friday, but only from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight.
- Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.
- All residential fountains and indoor commercial fountains can operate at any stage of drought.
- All non-public swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used for this purpose.
- Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions may be requested.
- Residential car washing allowed during drought once per week on Saturday or Sunday as long as there is no water waste.
- Drought Surcharge: For residential and commercial accounts, there is a Drought Surcharge which begins at Stage 1. This surcharge may be found in the Highway 90 Ranch Water Supply Corporation Ratc Schedule, Collection Regulations, and Charges. The first level surcharge will take effect for water use above 20,001 to 30,000 gallon a month.
- Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week from 5 to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight on your designated watering day, as determined by your address. Areas without a street address, such as medians and neighborhood entryways, water on Wednesday.

Last Digit of Address	Day
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

d. **Stage IV - Critical Conditions**

- At this stage, Stage 3 landscape irrigation restrictions remain in effect.
- Landscape watering is allowed from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. or 9 p.m.to midnight on your designated watering day. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be non-watering days.
- Drought Surcharge: For residential and commercial accounts, there is a surcharge which may be found in the Highway 90 Ranch Water Supply Corporation Ratc Schedule, Collection Regulations, and Charges.
- No person may use District water for washing automobiles, sidewalks, driveways, carports, or any other type of artificial ground cover.
- No person may use District water to fill a new swimming pool or refill an existing swimming pool.
- No person can use District water for any outdoor fountains, ornamental ponds, or similar devices.
- Persons may not use District water for an ornamental fountain or similar feature.

e. **Stage V - Exceptional Conditions**

- At this stage, Stage 4 landscape irrigation restrictions remain in effect.
- Landscape watering is allowed from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. or 9 p.m.to midnight on your designated watering day. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be non-watering days.

NOTE:

- There may be additional restrictions imposed by Governmental Entities.
- Meters will be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.

6. **INITIATION AND TERMINATION PROCEDURES**

Once a trigger condition occurs, the Corporation, or its designated responsible representative, shall, based on recommendation from the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee, decide if the appropriate stage of rationing shall be initiated. The initiation may be delayed if there is a reasonable possibility the water system performance will not be compromised by the condition. If water allocation is to be instituted, written notice to the customers shall be given.

Written notice of the proposed water allocation measure shall be mailed or delivered to each affected customer upon the initiation of each stage. In addition, upon adoption of Stage II, through Stage V, a notice will be placed in the notice box at 203 CR 468, Castroville Texas 78009 and in the Corporation's webpage. The San Antonio Express-News, a local newspaper and San Antonio TV and radio stations also announce water restriction stages. The customer notice shall contain the following information:

a. The date water allocation shall begin,
b. The expected duration,
c. The stage (level) of water allocations to be employed,
d. Penalty for violations of the water allocation program, and
e. Affected area or areas.

A sample Customer Notice of water allocation conditions is included in Miscellaneous Transaction Forms of this tariff.

If the water allocation program extends 30 days then the Chairperson of the Drought/Emergency Management Committee or manager shall present the reasons for the allocations at the next scheduled Board Meeting and shall request the concurrence of the Board to extend the allocation period.

When the trigger condition no longer exists then the responsible official may terminate the water allocations provided that such an action is based on sound judgment. Written notice of the end of allocations shall be given to customers. A water allocation period may not exceed 60 days without extension by action of the Board.

7. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

a. **First Violation** - The customer/member will be notified by a written notice of their specific violation. The customer will be provided with a notice of failure to comply with the Stage Levels of Water Allocation Rules.

b. **Second Violation** - The customer/member will be notified by a written notice of their specific violation. A penalty of **$ 25.00** will be assessed with the notice of second violation. The customer/member will be informed that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service and that service will be restored after all assessments and penalties are paid including the fee to restore service.

c. **Subsequent Violations** - The Corporation will assess an additional penalty of **$ 50.00** for violations continuing after the Second Violation. The customer/member will be notified by a written notice of their specific violation. The notice of subsequent violation will show the amount of the penalty to be assessed and will inform the violator that failure to pay the penalty will result in termination of service to be restored only upon payment of penalty and service call to restore service. The notice will also inform the customer/member that the Corporation may also install a flow restricting device in the customer's meter service to limit the amount of water that will pass through the meter in a twenty-four (24) hour period. The costs of this procedure will be for the actual work and equipment and shall be paid by the customer/member. If the customer/member should remove or attempt to remove this device it will be considered Meter Tampering and will result in disconnection of service without further notice. If the customer/member continues to commit additional violations and therefore incurs additional penalties, their water service will be terminated for a period of three (3) days regardless of whether they pay the penalties for the additional violations.

These provisions apply to all customers of the Corporation.

8. EXEMPTIONS OR WAIVERS

The Drought/Emergency Management Committee may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health or sanitation for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

a. Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.

b. Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the Drought/Emergency Management Committee within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked or after a condition justifying the variance first occurs.

All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Committee and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- 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 this Plan.
- Description of the relief requested.
- Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- 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.
- Other pertinent information, as requested by the Committee.

Variances granted by the Committee shall be subject to the following conditions, unless specifically waived or modified by the Committee or Board of Directors:

- Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- Variances granted shall expire when the water allocation is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements. No variance allowed for a condition requiring water allocation will continue beyond the termination of water allocation under Section F.
- Any variance for a subsequent water allocation must be petitioned again. The fact that a variance has been granted in response to a petition will have no relevance to the Committee's decision on any subsequent petition.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

9. IMPLEMENTATION

The Board establishes a Drought/Emergency Management Committee by Resolution, the chairperson of which will be the responsible representative to make Drought and Emergency Water Management actions. This Committee will review the procedures in this plan annually or more frequently. Modifications may be required to accommodate system growth, changes in water use demand, available water supply and/or other circumstances.

This Plan was adopted by the Board at a properly noticed meeting held on **10/20/2026**.