

Drought Contingency Plan for a Retail Public Water Supplier

Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

In order 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 minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the McMullen County Water Utility 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 to be 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 X of this Plan.

Section II: Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the McMullen County Water Utility by means of public commissioners' court meetings, and public notice posted in the county citizens app.

Section III: Public Education

The McMullen County Water Utility 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 public commissioners court meeting announcement, and public notice posted in the county citizens app, utility bill notices and press releases.

Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of the McMullen County Water Utility is located within the Region N Planning Group and McMullen County Water Utility has provided a copy of this Plan to the Region N Planning Group.

Section V: Authorization

The County Judge, or his/her designee 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 County Judge or his/her designee 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 McMullen County Water Utility. 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, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

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 McMullen County Water Utility

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, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Foundation watering: an application of water to the soils directly abutting (within 2 feet) the foundation of a building, structure.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

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

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane 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 leak(s); and

- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than fire fighting.

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

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

The County Judge or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified "triggers" are reached.

The triggering criteria described below are based on:

The drought response trigger levels are based on operational indicators that reflect system reliability, specifically the ratio of daily water demand to available water supply and finished water storage tank levels. These parameters were selected because they provide real-time measures of system capacity and available reserves. Trigger thresholds are established to initiate progressively more restrictive drought response stages as available supply decreases relative to demand or as storage levels decline, allowing the utility to preserve essential water supplies and maintain adequate pressure and service throughout drought conditions.

Utilization of alternative water sources and/or alternative delivery mechanisms:

Alternative water source(s) for McMullen County Water Utility is/are: Hauling Water from other water systems owned and/or with interlocal agreements with other water systems.

Stage 1 Triggers -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII Definitions, when:

Triggered when daily water demand reaches 75 percent or more of the available water supply, or when usable storage tank levels fall below 80 percent of capacity. These conditions indicate increasing demand or declining reserves and warrant the implementation of voluntary conservation measures.

Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

Stage 2 Triggers -- MODERATE 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 IX of this Plan when:

Triggered when daily water demand reaches 85 percent or more of the available water supply, or when usable storage tank levels fall below 65 percent of capacity. These conditions indicate

growing stress on the water system and require mandatory conservation measures to reduce demand.

Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1, or the applicable drought response stage based on the triggering criteria, becomes operative.

Stage 3 Triggers – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 3 of this Plan when:

Triggered when daily water demand reaches 95 percent or more of the available water supply, or when usable storage tank levels fall below 50 percent of capacity. These conditions indicate the system is approaching its operational limits, requiring significant restrictions on non-essential water use.

Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2, or the applicable drought response stage based on the triggering criteria, becomes operative.

Stage 4 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 for Stage 4 of this Plan when:

Triggered when daily water demand equals or exceeds 100 percent of the available water supply for 24 hours or more, or when usable storage tank levels fall below 35 percent of capacity. At this stage, the system has little operational reserve, and strict water use restrictions are necessary to preserve water for essential needs.

Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3, or the applicable drought response stage based on the triggering criteria, becomes operative.

Stage 5 Triggers – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when the County Judge, or his/her designee, determines that a water supply emergency exists based on:

1. Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service; **or**

2. Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).

Requirements for termination

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

Stage 6 Triggers – WATER ALLOCATION

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the water allocation plan prescribed in Section IX of this Plan and comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when:

Available water supplies are insufficient to meet customer demand despite all emergency conservation measures, when a prolonged interruption of supply is anticipated, or when usable storage tank levels fall below 10 percent of capacity, leaving only emergency reserves. Under this stage, water is allocated among customers based on the utility's Water Allocation Plan to ensure equitable distribution of the remaining supply while protecting essential public health and safety uses.

Requirements for termination - Water allocation may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

Note: The inclusion of WATER ALLOCATION as part of a drought contingency plan may not be required in all cases. For example, for a given water supplier, an analysis of water supply availability under drought of record conditions may indicate that there is essentially no risk of water supply shortage. Hence, a drought contingency plan for such a water supplier might only address facility capacity limitations and emergency conditions (example: supply source contamination and system capacity limitations).

Section IX: Drought Response Stages

The County Judge, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this Plan, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical, emergency or water shortage condition exists and shall implement the following notification procedures:

Notification

Notification of the Public:

The County Judge or his/ her designee shall notify the public by means of:

- publication in a newspaper of general circulation,
- public service announcements,
- signs posted in public places
- county electronic notification system

Additional Notification:

The County Judge or his/ her designee shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

Fire Chief(s)
County Emergency Management Coordinator(s)
County Commissioners
State Disaster District / Department of Public Safety
TCEQ (required when mandatory restrictions are imposed)
Major water users
Critical water users, i.e. hospitals
Parks / street superintendents & public facilities managers

Stage 1 Response – MILD Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a voluntary 10 percent reduction in *daily water demand*.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Encourage customers to limit outdoor irrigation to early morning or evening hours.*
- *Promote water-saving practices such as repairing leaks, using shut-off nozzles on hoses, and operating dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads.*
- *Increase monitoring of daily water production, demand, and storage tank levels.*
- *Increase leak detection and repair efforts throughout the distribution system.*
- *Encourage restaurants to serve water only upon request.*
- *Suspend non-essential flushing of water mains unless necessary for water quality.*

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- (a) Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.
- (b) All operations of the McMullen County Water Utility shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 1 of the Plan.
- (c) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes.

Stage 2 Response – MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 15 percent reduction in *daily water demand*.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Limit landscape irrigation to designated days and times.*
- *Prohibit irrigation during the hottest part of the day.*
- *Prohibit water runoff from irrigation systems onto streets and sidewalks.*

- *Prohibit washing paved surfaces except for health and safety reasons.*
- *Require repair of known plumbing leaks within a specified timeframe.*
- *Increase public education regarding mandatory restrictions.*
- *Continue aggressive leak detection and system maintenance.*

Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

Under threat of penalty for violation, the following water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime 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 system.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. 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 rises. 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 is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
- (c) 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 between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to fire fighting, 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 McMullen County Water Utility.
- (f) Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the McMullen County Water Utility, the facility shall not be subject to these regulations.
- (g) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.

- (h) The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
1. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
 2. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
 3. use of water for dust control;
 4. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
 5. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

Stage 3 Response – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 25 percent reduction in *daily water demand*.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Suspend all non-essential outdoor watering except for hand watering of trees and shrubs, if necessary.*
- *Prohibit filling or refilling swimming pools, ornamental fountains, and decorative ponds (unless required to support aquatic life).*
- *Prohibit washing of vehicles except at commercial facilities that recycle water or as necessary for public health and safety.*
- *Restrict hydrant use to firefighting, public health, and utility purposes.*
- *Increase enforcement of drought restrictions.*
- *Delay non-essential utility maintenance activities requiring significant water use.*

Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip irrigation, or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system only. The use of hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
- (b) The watering of golf course tees is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the McMullen County Water Utility.
- (c) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.
- (d) Foundation Watering (within 2 feet) and watering of trees may occur for two hours one day per week with a hand-held hose or with a dedicated zone using a Drip Irrigation system and/or Soaker Hose, provided no runoff occurs.

Stage 4 Response – CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 40 percent reduction in *daily water demand*.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Prohibit all outdoor irrigation except as necessary to preserve critical public vegetation or infrastructure.*
- *Suspend permits for new landscape irrigation systems.*
- *Prohibit all non-essential water uses.*
- *Reduce system operating pressures where practical and safe.*
- *Increase system monitoring to include multiple daily evaluations of production and storage.*
- *Coordinate with neighboring utilities for emergency water supply assistance if available.*
- *Prepare for emergency water distribution measures.*

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

All requirements of Stage 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare is prohibited. Further, such vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations shall occur only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 6:00 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- (c) The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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 for such time as this drought response stage or a higher-numbered stage shall be in effect.

Stage 5 Response – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions

Target: Achieve a 50 percent reduction in *daily water demand*.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- *Allow water use only for essential indoor domestic purposes, sanitation, healthcare, firefighting, and critical commercial or industrial operations.*
- *Suspend all bulk water sales unless required for emergency response.*

- *Implement emergency interconnections or alternate water sources, if available.*
- *Require immediate repair of all customer leaks.*
- *Consider pressure reductions where operationally feasible.*
- *Conduct daily evaluations of system capacity and water demand.*
- *Notify local emergency management officials and regulatory agencies as required.*

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

All requirements of Stage 2, 3, and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 except:

- Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited, except soaker hoses, hand-held hoses or a dedicated zone using a drip irrigation system may be used to water trees up to two hours per week or foundations as necessary, provided no runoff occurs.
- Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

Stage 6 Response – WATER ALLOCATION

In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the County Judge is hereby authorized to allocate water according to the following water allocation plan:

Single-Family Residential Customers

The allocation to residential water customers residing in a single-family dwelling shall be as follows:

Persons per Household	Gallons per Month
1 or 2	6,000
3 or 4	7,000
5 or 6	8,000
7 or 8	9,000
9 or 10	10,000
11 or more	12,000

“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 for the entire billing period. It shall be assumed that a particular customer’s household is comprised of two (2) persons unless the customer notifies the McMullen County Water Utility of a greater number of persons per household on a form prescribed by the County Judge. The County judge shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every residential customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer’s responsibility to go to the McMullen County Water Utility offices to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) persons per household. New customers may claim more persons per household at the time of applying for water service on the form prescribed by the County Judge. When the number of persons per household increases so as to place the customer in a different allocation category, the customer may notify the McMullen County Water Utility on such form and the change will be implemented in

the next practicable billing period. If the number of persons in a household is reduced, the customer shall notify the McMullen County Water Utility in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) persons per household, the County Judge shall adopt methods to insure the accuracy of the claim. Any person who knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence falsely reports the number of persons in a household or fails to timely notify the McMullen County Water Utility of a reduction in the number of person in a household shall be fined not less than \$250.

Residential water customers shall pay the following surcharges:

- \$10 for the first 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$15 for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$20 for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$25 for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Surcharges shall be cumulative.

Master-Metered Multi-Family Residential Customers

The allocation to a customer billed from a master meter which jointly measures water to multiple permanent residential dwelling units (example: apartments, mobile homes) shall be allocated 6,000 gallons per month for each dwelling unit. It shall be assumed that such a customer's meter serves two dwelling units unless the customer notifies the McMullen County Water Utility of a greater number on a form prescribed by the County Judge. The County Judge (designated official) shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every such customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer's responsibility to go to the McMullen County Water Utility offices to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) dwellings. A dwelling unit may be claimed under this provision whether it is occupied or not. New customers may claim more dwelling units at the time of applying for water service on the form prescribed by the County Judge. If the number of dwelling units served by a master meter is reduced, the customer shall notify the McMullen County Water Utility in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) dwelling units, the County Judge shall adopt methods to insure the accuracy of the claim. Any person who knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence falsely reports the number of dwelling units served by a master meter or fails to timely notify the McMullen County Water Utility of a reduction in the number of person in a household shall be fined not less than \$500. Customers billed from a master meter under this provision shall pay the following monthly surcharges:

- \$30 for 1,000 gallons over allocation up through 1,000 gallons for each dwelling unit.
- \$35, thereafter, for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation up through a second 1,000 gallons for each dwelling unit.
- \$40, thereafter, for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation up through a third 1,000 gallons for each dwelling unit.
- \$45, thereafter for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Surcharges shall be cumulative.

Commercial Customers

A monthly water allocation shall be established by the County Judge, or his/her designee, for each nonresidential commercial customer other than an industrial customer who uses water for processing purposes. The non-residential customer's allocation shall be approximately 75 percent of the customer's usage for corresponding month's billing period for the previous 12 months. If the customer's billing history is shorter than 12 months, the monthly average for the period for which there is a record shall be used for any monthly period for which no history exists. Provided, however, a customer, 75 percent of whose monthly usage is less than 2,000 gallons, shall be allocated 5,000 gallons. The County Judge shall make his/her best effort to see that notice of each non-residential customer's allocation is mailed to such customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such notice, it shall be the customer's responsibility to contact the McMullen County Water Utility to determine the allocation. Upon request of the customer or at the initiative of the County Judge, the allocation may be reduced or increased if, (1) the designated period does not accurately reflect the customer's normal water usage, (2) one nonresidential customer agrees to transfer part of its allocation to another nonresidential customer, or (3) other objective evidence demonstrates that the designated allocation is inaccurate under present conditions. A customer may appeal an allocation established hereunder to the County Judge. Nonresidential commercial customers shall pay the following surcharges:

Customers whose allocation is 1 gallons through 10,000 gallons per month:

- \$30 per thousand gallons for the first 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$35 per thousand gallons for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$40 per thousand gallons for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$45 per thousand gallons for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Customers whose allocation is 10,001 gallons per month or more:

- 1.5 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons in excess of the allocation up through 5 percent above allocation.
- 1.7 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 5 percent through 10 percent above allocation.
- 1.8 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 10 percent through 15 percent above allocation.
- 2 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons more than 15 percent above allocation.

The surcharges shall be cumulative. As used herein, "block rate" means the charge to the customer per 1,000 gallons at the regular water rate schedule at the level of the customer's allocation.

Industrial Customers

A monthly water allocation shall be established by the County Judge, or his/her designee, for each industrial customer, which uses water for processing purposes. The industrial customer's allocation shall be approximately 90 percent of the customer's water usage baseline. Ninety (90) days after the initial imposition of the allocation for industrial customers, the industrial customer's allocation shall be further reduced to 85 percent of the customer's water usage baseline. The industrial customer's water use baseline will be computed on the average water use for the 12-month period ending prior to the date of

implementation of Stage 2 of the Plan. If the industrial water customer's billing history is shorter than 12 months, the monthly average for the period for which there is a record shall be used for any monthly period for which no billing history exists. The County Judge shall give his/her best effort to see that notice of each industrial customer's allocation is mailed to such customers. If, however, a customer does not receive such notice, it shall be the customer's responsibility to contact the McMullen County Water Utility to determine the allocation, and the allocation shall be fully effective notwithstanding the lack of receipt of written notice. Upon request of the customer or at the initiative of the County Judge, the allocation may be reduced or increased, (1) if the designated period does not accurately reflect the customer's normal water use because the customer had shutdown a major processing unit for repair or overhaul during the period, (2) the customer has added or is in the process of adding significant additional processing capacity, (3) the customer has shutdown or significantly reduced the production of a major processing unit, (4) the customer has previously implemented significant permanent water conservation measures such that the ability to further reduce water use is limited, (5) the customer agrees to transfer part of its allocation to another industrial customer, or (6) if other objective evidence demonstrates that the designated allocation is inaccurate under present conditions. A customer may appeal an allocation established hereunder to the County Judge. Industrial customers shall pay the following surcharges:

Customers whose allocation is 1 gallons through 10,000 gallons per month:

- \$30 per thousand gallons for the first 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$35 per thousand gallons for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$40 per thousand gallons for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$45 per thousand gallons for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Customers whose allocation is 10,001 gallons per month or more:

- 1.5 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons in excess of the allocation up through 5 percent above allocation.
- 1.7 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 5 percent through 10 percent above allocation.
- 1.8 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 10 percent through 15 percent above allocation.
- 2 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons more than 15 percent above allocation.

The surcharges shall be cumulative. As used herein, "block rate" means the charge to the customer per 1,000 gallons at the regular water rate schedule at the level of the customer's allocation.

Section X: Enforcement

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the McMullen County Water Utility for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by County Judge, or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.

- (b) Any person who violates this Plan is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500). Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person is convicted of three or more distinct violations of this Plan, the County Judge shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge, hereby established at \$ 50 during business hours and \$150 after business hours, and any other costs incurred by the McMullen County Water Utility in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be given to the County Judge that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect. Compliance with this plan may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court.
- (c) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the McMullen County Water Utility, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. Parents shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children and proof that a violation, committed by a child, occurred on property within the parents' control shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the parent committed the violation, but any such parent may be excused if he/she proves that he/she had previously directed the child not to use the water as it was used in violation of this Plan and that the parent could not have reasonably known of the violation.
- (d) Any employee of the McMullen County Water Utility, police officer, or other County employee designated by the County Judge, may issue a citation to a person he/she reasonably believes to be in violation of this Ordinance. The citation shall be prepared in duplicate and shall contain the name and address of the alleged violator, if known, the offense charged and shall direct him/her to appear in the County Court on the date shown on the citation for which the date shall not be less than 3 days nor more than 5 days from the date the citation was issued. The alleged violator shall be served a copy of the citation. Service of the citation shall be complete upon delivery of the citation to the alleged violator, to an agent or employee of a violator, or to a person over 14 years of age who is a member of the violator's immediate family or is a resident of the violator's residence. The alleged violator shall appear in the County Court to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty for the violation of this Plan. If the alleged violator fails to appear in the County Court a warrant for his/her arrest may be issued. A summons to appear may be issued in lieu of an arrest warrant. These cases shall be expedited and given preferential setting in County Court before all other cases.

Section XI: Variances

The County Judge, or his/her designee, 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, sanitation, or fire protection 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 McMullen County Water Utility within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the County Judge, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of 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 this Ordinance.
- (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.

Name: McMullen County Tilden

Address: 501 River St Tilden Texas 78072

Telephone Number: (361) 274-3900 Fax: (361) 274-3858

Water Right No.(s): N/A

Regional Water Planning Group: Region N Planning Group

Form Completed by: Israel Martinez

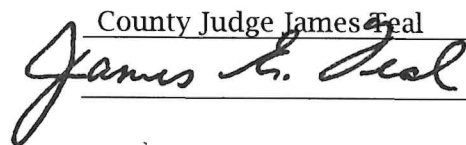
Title: Operations Manager, Water Guardians of Texas

Person responsible for implementation:

Signature:

Agenda Item# 26-181

County Judge James Teal Phone: (361) 362-8437

 Date: 7/28/2026