



Webb County Water Utilities Drought Contingency Plan

Drought Contingency Plans must be formally adopted by the governing body of the water provider and documentation of adoption must be submitted with the plan. For municipal water systems, adoption would be by the city council as an ordinance. For other types of publicly-owned water systems (example: utility districts), plan adoption would be by resolution of the entity's board of directors adopting the plan as administrative rules. For private investor-owned utilities, the drought contingency plan is to be incorporated into the utility's rate tariff. Each water supplier shall provide documentation of the formal adoption of their drought contingency plan.

Name:	Webb County Water Utilities	
Address:	513 Martha Dr.	
Telephone Number:	(956) 523-5590	Fax: (956) 724-7906
Water Right No.(s):	2720-001 & 2720-002	
Regional Water Planning Group:	Region M	
Form Completed by:	Javier Gonzalez	
Title:	Executive Director	
Person responsible for implementation:	Javier Gonzalez	Phone: (956) 523-5590
Signature:		Date: 01/24/2025



This document serves as the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) for Webb County Water Utilities. It has been developed to manage water demand during periods of limited supply and to promote the conservation and efficient use of Webb County's water resources, ensuring a reliable supply to meet essential needs.

This DCP also contains information which steps are to be taken in a water emergency, as would be a contamination of water supply or shortage of water supply. The DCP has been prepared in accordance with Texas Administrative Code Title 30 Chapter Subchapter B Rule §288.20 for Municipal Uses by Public Water Suppliers.

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 Webb County Water Utilities hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) 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 DCP was provided by the Webb County Commissioners Court holding a public hearing prior to the adoption of this DCP. The Webb County Water Utilities Department will periodically provide the public with information about the DCP, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the DCP 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 social media posts, public events, press releases, bill inserts and news.

SECTION III: PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Webb County Water Utilities Department will periodically provide the public with information about the DCP, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the DCP is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. The Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, or his designee, will maintain in a current condition, information about the County's water supply, including water levels of the Amistad Reservoir, and shall provide this information to the County Judge and Commissioners Court. When the capacity of the Amistad Reservoir or the water treatment demand reach trigger levels, as specified in the stages of this DCP, the full range of information, goals, demand reduction measures, and penalties for each respective stage, as stated in the DCP, will be communicated to the County's water customers. At that time, the DCP's mandatory stages will be declared depending on the severity of the conditions. The means of communication will be by public announcements in social media, newspapers, radio, television and printed bulletins



which will be posted at the Webb County Courthouse and various public buildings within the service area of the Webb County Water Utilities and, when warranted, will be either mailed or hand delivered to water customers. In addition, a message about the activation of the DCP will be included on customer water bills and on the County website. A press release and press conference, with all media sources may be organized by the Webb County Water Utilities Department in both English and Spanish.

SECTION IV: COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS

The service area of the Webb County Water Utilities is located within Region M, Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area and the Webb County Water Utilities has provided a copy of this DCP to the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M). Webb County Water Utilities shall review and update, as appropriate, the DCP at least every five years based on new or updated information, such as the adoption or revision of the regional water plan. Copies of any amendment to this DCP will continue to be provided to the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group in order to maintain a close communication with them in regard to water conservation efforts implemented for the County or drought emergency triggers affecting the Rio Grande River along Webb County's southern border.

SECTION V: AUTHORIZATION

The Webb County Judge and Commissioner's Court, through the Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this DCP upon determination that the respective trigger levels are reached, and such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Webb County Judge and Commissioner's Court, Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this DCP.

SECTION VI: APPLICATION

The provisions of the DCP shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the Webb County Water Utilities Department. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the DCP include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

SECTION VII: DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this DCP, 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 the Webb County Water Utilities.

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.

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:

- irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this DCP
- use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- use of water to wash down 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;
- flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting.

Odd number 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 Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily or weekly basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the DCP, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

Stage 1 Triggers – MILD Water Shortage Conditions – Voluntary Conservation

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and uses only in the amount necessary, or health, business, and irrigation uses, which mandatorily must adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII Definitions.

- Amistad Lake Reservoir Level Reaches 30% of storage capacity.
- OR
- Daily water demand exceeds 85% (2,125,000 gallons per day) of the rated plant capacity for seven (7) consecutive days.
- OR
- Distribution system pressure remains below 45 psi for more than seven (7) consecutive days.

Requirements for termination

The Water Utilities Executive Director may rescind Stage 1 of the DCP when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of Thirty (30) consecutive days.

Stage 2 Triggers – MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions – Mandatory Conservation

Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 2 of this DCP when:

- Amistad Lake Reservoir Level Reaching 25% of storage capacity.
- OR
- Daily water demand exceeds 90% (2,225,000 gallons per day) of the rated plant capacity for five (5) consecutive days.
- OR
- Distribution system pressure remains below 40 psi for more than five (5) consecutive days.

Requirements for termination

The Water Utilities Executive Director may rescind Stage 2 of the DCP when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of five (5) consecutive



days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1, or the applicable drought response stage based on the triggering criteria, becomes operative.

In addition, Stage 2 will be downgraded to Stage 1 if Amistad Lake Reservoir Level reaches 25%-30% of storage capacity and remains at that level for 30 consecutive days.

Stage 3 Triggers – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions – Mandatory Conservation

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:

- Amistad Lake Reservoir Level reaches 20% of storage capacity.
OR
- Daily water demand exceeds 95% (2,375,000 gallons per day) of the rated plant capacity for three (3) consecutive days.
OR
- Distribution system pressure remains below 38 psi for more than three (3) consecutive days.
OR
- Contamination of water supply source, the Rio Grande, has occurred.
OR
- System outage due to failure or damage of major water system components (e.g. raw water pumps, high service pumps, water storage tanks and booster stations)

Requirements for termination

The Water Utilities Executive Director may rescind Stage 3 of the DCP when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (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 – EMERGENCY 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 DCP when:

- Amistad Lake Reservoir Level reaches 15% of storage capacity.

Requirements for termination

The Water Utilities Executive Director may rescind Stage 4 of the DCP when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of seven (7) consecutive



days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3, or the applicable drought response stage based on the triggering criteria becomes operative.



SECTION IX: Drought Response Stages

The Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, and/or his 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 of the Public:

The Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, and/or his/her designee, shall notify the public by means of:

- Webb County Public Information Officer Public Service Announcements, Press Releases, and social media posts,
- Local TV station programming
- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation,
- Mail
- Notices Posted at the following Webb County locations:
 - Webb County Courthouse
 - Rio Bravo Community/Recreation Center
 - El Cenizo Community/Recreation Center
 - La Presa Community/Recreation Center

Additional Notification:

The Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, and/or his/her designee, shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

- County Judge & Commissioner(s)
- Rio Bravo Mayor/Members of the City Council
- El Cenizo Mayor/Members of the City Council
- Colonia La Presa Board Members
- Major Water Users such as:
 - U.I.S.D. Superintendent and affected School Principals
 - GEO Group
 - Core Civic Center
 - City of Laredo Fire Chief(s)
- City/County Emergency Management Coordinator(s)
- TCEQ (Only for Moderate or Severe Conditions) – Note: TCEQ MUST be informed within five (5) business days of mandatory water use restrictions being imposed.
- Texas State Disaster District / Texas Department of Public Safety
- Critical water users, i.e. hospitals, clinics, emergency rooms, and dialysis clinics
- Parks / street superintendents & public facilities managers



Stage 1 Response – MILD Water Shortage Conditions – Voluntary Conservation

Target:

Achieve a five percent (5%) reduction in total water use.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

- Webb County Water Utilities will enact measures such as reduced flushing or reduced water production, as much as possible without compromising the water systems ability to maintain pressures and water quality within TCEQ Requirements.

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

- 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 (or have no address), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number, and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. to 12 a.m. on designated watering days.
- Major commercial water users are requested to voluntarily reduce water use.
- Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes.
- During winter months, water users are requested to insulate pipes rather than running water to prevent freezing.
- All operations of the Webb County Water Utilities shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 1 of the Plan.



Stage 2 Response – MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions – Mandatory Conservation

Target:

Achieve a 10% percent reduction in total water use.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

All actions from the preceding stages will continue.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

All water use restrictions from Stage 1 will continue and will become mandatory under Stage 2. In addition, the following restrictions will be enacted under Stage 2:

- Car washing, window washing and pavement washing are prohibited. 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. 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.
- The following uses of public water are prohibited when not essential for public health or safety:
 - Street washing
 - Water hydrant flushing
 - Filling swimming pools
 - Athletic fields watering
- 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.
- 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 Webb County Water Utilities.
- All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.
- 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).
- A fine may be imposed on customer's not adhering to current restrictions.



Stage 3 Response – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions – Mandatory Conservation

Target:

Achieve a 15% percent reduction in total water use.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

All actions from preceding stages will continue.

Water Use Restrictions for Demand Reduction:

All requirements of Stages 1 and 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3. In addition, the following restrictions will be enacted under Stage 3:

- It will be mandatory for water customers to limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Sundays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (or have no address), and Saturdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number, and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. to 12 a.m. on designated watering days.
- Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.
- The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.
- Other Restrictions may be imposed by the Webb County Judge and Commissioners Court and/or the Webb County Utilities Executive Director.

Drought Surcharge

- A drought surcharge is assessed on all accounts for surcharge of \$20.00 per thousand gallons will take effect for water use **above 6,000 gallons**.
- Commercial irrigation surcharge amounts will vary based on water use and meter size.



Stage 4 Response – CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions

Target:

Achieve a thirty percent (20%) reduction in total water use.

Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

All actions from preceding stages will continue.

Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

All requirements of Stages 1, 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4. In addition, the following restrictions will be enacted under Stage 4:

- The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.
- Drought Surcharge will remain in effect
- ALL outdoor water use is BANNED
- 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 shall be suspended for such time as this drought response stage or a higher-numbered stage shall be in effect.
- Other Restrictions may be imposed by the Webb County Judge and Commissioners Court and/or the Webb County Utilities Executive Director.

SECTION X: ENFORCEMENT

- No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the Webb County Water Utilities for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Drought Contingency 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 the Webb County Judge and Commissioners Court and/or the Webb County Water Utilities Director, or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this DCP.
- Any person who violates this Plan is guilty of a Class "C" Misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than **FIFTY Dollars (\$50.00)** and not more than **FIVE HUNDRED Dollars (\$500.00)**. 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 Webb County Water Utilities Director or his designee 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 **TWENTY Dollars (\$20.00)**, and any other costs incurred by the Webb County Water Utilities in discontinuing service. Compliance with this plan may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court.

- Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the Webb County Water Utilities, 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 enter a plea of not guilty and request a formal hearing before the Justice of the Peace Court by the Judge or a jury of his peers in the Precinct where the alleged DCP offense was alleged to have occurred. 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.
- The Webb County Water Utilities Director and/or his designee being an employee of the Webb County Water Utilities Department, a certified Webb County Code Enforcement Officer, or other Webb County Water Utilities Department employee designated by the Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, may issue a citation to a person he/she reasonably believes to be in violation of this DCP. 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 Webb County Justice of the Peace Courthouse in the specific Precinct where the violation occurred and/or the citation for such violation was issued, 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 personally 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 at the Webb County Justice of the Peace Courthouse in the specific Precinct where the violation occurred and/or the citation for such violation was issued to enter a plea of guilty, not guilty or no contest for the violation of this Plan. If the alleged violator fails to appear at the Webb County Justice of the Peace Courthouse in the specific Precinct where the violation occurred and/or the citation for such violation was issued, 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, before all other cases, in the Webb County Justice of the Peace Courthouse in the specific Precinct where the violation occurred and/or the citation for such violation was issued.



SECTION XI: VARIANCES

The Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, 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:

- Compliance with this DCP cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the DCP is in effect.
- Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Petition for Variance:

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Order shall file a written petition for variance with the Executive Director of the Webb County Water Utilities within 5 days after the DCP or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Webb County Water Utilities Executive Director, or his/her designee, who shall, in writing, approve, deny or modify the relief sought in the petition. Each petition shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provision(s) of the DCP from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the DCP adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- 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 DCP and the compliance date.
- Other pertinent information.
- The Drought Contingency Plan Level/status for Webb County on the date the variance was applied for.

SECTION XII: APPEAL FOR DENIAL OF A VARIANCE

A Petitioner (Person and/or entity) may appeal, in writing, the determination/decision of the Webb County Executive Director Water Utilities on the Petitioner's Request for a Variance. Petitioner shall file the appeal within 5 business days of the Executive Director's determination on Petitioner's Request for a Variance. The appeal shall be filed with the Webb County Commissioners Court Administrator. The Webb County Commissioners Court Administrator shall place the appeal on the agenda of the Commissioners Court next meeting for action.