

HEADWATERS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Memo

To: All Permit Well Owners/Operators
From: Gene Williams, HGCD General Manager
CC: HGCD Board of Directors
Date: August 10, 2023
Re: Initiate Stage 4 Extreme Drought

The HGCD Drought Index Levels are the average water level in 4 select Middle Trinity monitor wells. The District also considers the Palmer Drought Severity Index and the Guadalupe River flow rate at Kerrville.

Very hot dry conditions persist over Texas and very minimal rainfall has been recorded to date for 2023. Through July 31, 2023 the Knipling-Bushland Laboratory in Kerrville has recorded 10.32 inches for the year, which is 6.47 inches below the 30-year average. Aquifer levels throughout the county have taken a significant drop the last month moving our Drought Index Levels between stage 3 & 4. As of today, the Palmer Drought Severity Index has Kerr County in Extreme Drought. The Guadalupe River discharge ft³/s is at about 5 or below. Drought stages may be initiated at the discretion of the District depending on the ability of the City of Kerrville to draw surface water from the Guadalupe River.

This Plan places the following restrictions on Permitted Wells.

1. **Restrictions for the City of Kerrville;**

Due to the City of Kerrville's Conjunctive Use Permit they are not required to do a percentage reduction of groundwater production as listed in this plan's various drought stages. This plan requires the City to move into and initiate their drought stage notices to correspond with the HGCD current drought stage.

2. **Restrictions for Permitted Wells serving a Public Water System**

The Plan requires a fractional reduction in water demand for the PWS under each stage. Headwaters GCD authority is at the well and not at the individual connection. It will be the responsibility of the PWS owner to implement drought restrictions.

Stage 1 Allowance	10% Reduction
Stage 2 Allowance	20% Reduction
Stage 3 Allowance	30% Reduction
Stage 4 Allowance	40% Reduction

3. Restrictions for Permitted Wells Being Used for Agricultural, Industrial or Other Purposes (non domestic).

The Plan requires the same percentage reduction as for Public Water Supply Systems.

Stage 1 Allowance	10% Reduction
Stage 2 Allowance	20% Reduction
Stage 3 Allowance	30% Reduction
Stage 4 Allowance	40% Reduction

4. Drought Stages will be terminated at the discretion of the District when aquifer levels, rainfall, and river flow conditions return to more normal conditions.

To view the entire contents of the HGCD Drought Contingency Plan, please go to [www.hgcd.org/droughtstage/drought contingency plan](http://www.hgcd.org/droughtstage/drought%20contingency%20plan).

STAGE 4: EXTREME DROUGHT

- A. Irrigation of landscaped areas including parks, and golf courses should be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM and between 8:00 PM and 12:00 midnight. Watering should be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems and hose-end sprinklers should be prohibited at all times. Athletic fields should abide by the same watering hours; however, they are allowed the use of irrigation systems to water.
- B. The following use of water defined as non-essential should be prohibited:
 - 1. Washing down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
 - 2. Washing down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
 - 3. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such a leak(s).
 - 4. Pumping of groundwater into ponds, lakes or reservoirs for the purpose of enhancing the appearance of the landscape.
 - 5. Washing any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash or service station and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare should be prohibited.
 - 6. The filling of swimming pools.
 - 7. No applications for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind will be approved.