

HEADWATERS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Memo

To: All Permit Well Owners/Operators
From: Gene Williams, HGCD General Manager
CC: HGCD Board of Directors
Date: October 10, 2023
Re: **Terminate Stage 4 Drought, Move to Stage 3**

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.

The current HGCD Drought Index Levels remain between Stage 3 and Stage 4 levels.

Due to increased surface water available to the City of Kerrville, recovery in Lower Trinity Aquifer levels, and some improvement in the Palmer Drought Severity Index, HGCD is terminating Stage 4 Drought restrictions and moving to Stage 3.

All though recent rains and cooler temperatures have made an impact, conservation from all groundwater users and well owners should remain a priority. *Public Water Supply Systems may continue to enforce Stage 4 restrictions if needed to maintain service to their customers.* Moving from Extreme (Stage 4) to Severe (Stage 3) ask for 30% reduction and prohibits all non-essential use (see Stage 3 restrictions below).

Restrictions on Permitted Wells

Headwaters GCD has the authority to monitor and manage the production from all Permitted Wells. Permitted Wells are those as Public Water Supply (PWS) wells which provide for domestic use and all other wells used to support agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and other non-domestic uses. This Plan places the following restrictions on Permitted Wells.

Restrictions for the City of Kerrville

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.

Restrictions for Permitted Wells serving a Public Water System

The Plan requires a fractional reduction in water demand for a 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 and communicate drought restrictions to their customers.

Stage 3 Allowance 30% Reduction

Restrictions for Permitted Wells Being Used for Agricultural, Industrial or Other Purposes

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

Stage 3 Allowance 30% Reduction

STAGE 3: SEVERE DROUGHT

- A.** Irrigation of landscaped areas including parks and golf courses should be limited to the previously designated watering hours between 8:00 PM and 10:00 AM. Watering should be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of 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 for watering.
- 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.
 - 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 other than a public safety vehicle on a premises other than a commercial car wash or service station and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare.
 - 6. The filling of swimming pools.