



# Drought Contingency Plan for a Retail Public Water Supplier

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

This form is provided as a model of a drought contingency plan for a retail public water supplier. If you need assistance in completing this form or in developing your plan, please contact the conservation staff of the Resource Protection Team in the Water Availability Division at (512) 239-4691. Submit completed plans to: Water Availability Division MC 160, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-3087.

**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.**

Name: City of Port Neches

Address: P.O. Box 758

Telephone Number: (409) 719-4281 Fax: (409) 719-4289

Water Right No.(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Water Planning Group: 1

Form Completed by: Phillip Pryor

Title: Water Plant Supervisor

Water Conservation Coordinator responsible for implementation: Andre' Weimer Phone: (409) 719-4201

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  / /

## 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 City of Port Neches 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 City of Port Neches by means of public meeting (describe methods used to inform the public about the preparation of the plan and provide opportunities for input; for example, scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan).

### **Section III: Public Education**

The City of Port Neches 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 mailing (describe methods to be used to provide information to the public about the Plan; for example, public events, press releases or utility bill inserts).

### **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the City of Port Neches is located within the Region 1 (name of regional water planning area or areas) and City of Port Neches has provided a copy of this Plan to the Region 1.

### **Section V: Authorization**

The City Manager, 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 City manager, 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 City of Port Neches. 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 City of Port Neches.

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:

- (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 City Manager or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a weekly 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 conditions set forth by the Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) drought contingency plan (See Attached LNVA drought contingency plan).**

### **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 B Definitions, when the City of Port Neches is notified by the LNVA that they are implementing water conservation based on LNVA triggers. ( see attached plan)

Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events LNVA have been lifted and the City of Port Neches has been notified by LNVA.

**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 LNVA notifies the City of Port Neches.

Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased when LNVA notifies the City Of Port Neches. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 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 LNVA notifies the City of Port Neches based on criteria is set by LNVA drought contingency plan.

Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist and LNVA has notified the City of Port Neches. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 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 LNVA notifies the City of Port Neches.

Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist and LNVA has notified the City of Port Neches. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage

3 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 **City Manager**, 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 water 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 2 consecutive days.

## **Section IX: Drought Response Stages**

The **City Manager**, 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 by LNVA and 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 **City Manager** or his/ her designee shall notify the public by means of:

#### *Examples:*

*Publication in a newspaper of general circulation,  
Direct mail to each customer,  
Public service announcements,  
Signs posted in public places  
Take-home fliers at schools.*

#### Additional Notification:

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

#### *Examples:*

*Mayor / Chairman and members of the City Council / Utility Board  
Fire Chief(s)  
City and/or County Emergency Management Coordinator(s)  
County Judge & Commissioner(s)  
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: The City of Port Neches will implement the following once notified by LNVA.**

#### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

**The City of Port Neches will use every available option to increase water conservation.**

#### 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 City of Port Neches shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 2 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 goals set by LNVA plan. The City of Port Neches, City Manager or his/her designee will notify TCEQ and implement the Plan.**

### Best Management Practices for Supply Management:

**The City of Port Neches will use every available option to increase water conservation.**

### 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 06:00 a.m. and between 10:00 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 06:00 a.m. and between 10:00 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 06:00 a.m. and between 10:00 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 **City of Port Neches**.
- (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 06:00 a.m. and between 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the **City of Port Neches**, 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 goals set by LNVA plan.**

**Best Management Practices for Supply Management:**

**The City of Port Neches will use every available option to increase water conservation**

**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 designate watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 06:00 a.m. and between 10:00 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 **City of Port Neches**.
- (c) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.

#### **Stage 4 Response -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Achieve goals set by LNVA plan**

**Best Management Practices for Supply Management**

**The City of Port Neches will use every available option to increase water conservation**

**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 10:00 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 goals set by LNVA or City Manager.**

**Best Management Practices for Supply Management:**

**The City of Port Neches will use every available option to increase water conservation**

**Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand.** All requirements of Stage 2, 3, and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

## **Section X: Enforcement**

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the **City of Port Neches** 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 **City Manager**, 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 25 dollars (\$25) and not more than 250 dollars (\$250). 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 **City Manager** 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 \$20.00, and any other costs incurred by the **City of Port Neches** in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be given to the **City Manager** 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 **City of Port Neches**, 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 **City of Port Neches**, police officer, or other **City** employee designated by the **City Manager**, 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 municipal 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 municipal court to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty for the violation of this Plan. If the alleged violator fails to appear in municipal 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 municipal court before all other cases.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The **City Manager**, 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 **City of Port Neches** within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the **City Manager**, 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.

**If you have any questions on how to fill out this form or about the Drought Contingency program, please contact us at 512/239-4691.**

Individuals are entitled to request and review their personal information that the agency gathers on its forms. They may also have any errors in their information corrected. To review such information, contact us at 512-239-3282.