



North Texas
Municipal Water
District

NEWS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Low lake levels, below average rainfall prompt NTMWD Board to continue Stage 3 of Drought Plan

Landscape watering, if needed, is limited to once every two weeks.

(Wylie, Texas-February 26, 2015) In response to the ongoing drought and historically low lake levels, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Board of Directors voted to extend the NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan Stage 3 seasonal watering restrictions through the month of April. This means that residential and business customers will be limited to landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to once every two weeks, when needed. Other water management measures may apply - check with your city for additional details. Future actions on watering restrictions will depend on water levels in the District's supply reservoirs.

"Our primary water supplies are below normal due to less than average rainfall and the persistent drought," said Tom Kula, Executive Director of NTMWD. "Before we can lift water restrictions, our reservoirs need several months of average rainfall -- enough to significantly raise lake levels." For now, the NTMWD Board of Directors will reconsider the continuation of Stage 3 watering restrictions on a monthly basis at least through May.

Stage 3 watering restrictions are part of the *NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan (2008)*, which addresses how to reduce water usage, improve the efficient use of water, and extend the life of current supplies, <https://ntmwd.com/downloads/plans/plansntmwdcombined.pdf>. Check with your city for specific water restrictions.

As of February 26, 2015, Lavon Lake's elevation was down 10.98 feet and Lake Jim Chapman, another critical NTMWD water source, was also down 9.91 feet.

NTMWD reminds customers that thousands of gallons of water can be saved through proper irrigation practices. "Overwatering our lawns and not repairing broken or misaligned sprinkler heads are the largest water wasters outside the home," said Kula. "We urge all residents and business owners with sprinkler or automatic irrigation systems to operate those systems on manual mode and only water their lawns when needed.

NTMWD also encourages customers to use a free weather-based conservation tool such as www.WaterMyYard.org. The tool uses local weather conditions to determine when watering is necessary to maintain a healthy lawn. Customers receive weekly emails with details on how long to run an irrigation system. Using this weather-based system during 2011, the driest year of record, no additional watering was needed 33 weeks of the year, including the month of April," notes Kula.

NTMWD has identified and is developing additional raw water supplies to meet the future water demands and population growth for the next 50 years. These supplies and other required water management strategies are included in the 2012 State Water Plan.

Near-Term Water Supply Strategies

Project Description	Yield	Online
Dredging Lakes Lavon and Chapman Intakes	11 MGD	2015
Dallas Interim Contract Extension	40 MGD	2016
Main Stem Pump Station Construction	50 MGD	2017
Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir	108 MGD	2020

Million Gallons per Day (MGD)

More information and tips on water conservation can be found at www.northtexaswateriq.org and www.ntmwd.com.