

# **Drought Contingency Plan for Gholson Water Supply Corporation**

## **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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation 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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation by means of open public meeting of Gholson Water Supply Corporation Board of Directors on October 7, 2024.

## **Section III: Public Education**

The Gholson Water Supply Corporation 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 Drought Contingency Plan in our business office and on our website [gholsonwsc.myruralwater.com](http://gholsonwsc.myruralwater.com)

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

The service area of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation is located within the Brazos G Regional Planning Area and Gholson Water Supply Corporation has provided a copy of this Plan to the Brazos G Regional Planning Group Brazos River Authority 4600 Cobbs Dr. Waco, TX 76710.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation, 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 Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation or their 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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation. 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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation.

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 Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation or their designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily 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 analysis of the system emphasizing the importance of water supply to each plant.

#### **Stage 1 Triggers -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target:** Raise public awareness of the supply situation and request voluntary reductions in nonessential water use.

##### 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 any one plant on the system reaches a demand equal to or greater than 75% of the total production (or refill) capacity for 3 consecutive days.

##### Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days. Public Notification will be done.

#### **Stage 2 Triggers -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target:** Reduce and maintain water demand at or below 80% of system capacity.

##### 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 any one plant on the system reaches a demand equal to or greater than 80% of the total production (or refill) capacity for 3 consecutive days.

##### Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative. Public notification of termination of this stage shall be issued by the Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or their designee.

### **Stage 3 Triggers – SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target:** Reduce and maintain water demand at or below 85% of system capacity.

#### 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 any one plant on the system reaches a demand equal to or greater than 85% of the total production (or refill) capacity for 3 consecutive days.

#### Requirements for termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative. Public notification of termination of this stage shall be issued by the Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or their designee.

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

**Target:** Reduce and maintain water demand at or below 90% of system capacity.

#### 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 any one plant on the system reaches a demand equal to or greater than 90% of the total production (or refill) capacity for 3 consecutive days.

#### Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 7 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative. Public notification of termination of this stage shall be issued by the Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or their designee. Notification to TCEQ.

### **Stage 5 Triggers -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target:** Discontinue all water system operations.

#### Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when the Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or their designee, determines that a water supply emergency exists based on:

1. Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented 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 the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased

to exist. Public notification of termination of this stage shall be issued by the Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or their designee. Notification to TCEQ.

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

The Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or their 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**

##### Notification of the Public:

The Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation or their designee shall notify the public by means of:

Television-News Channel KCEN Channel 6, KWTX Channel10, and KXXV Channel 25  
Publication in West News, Waco Tribune Herald  
Signs posted in Public Places  
Post on social media and website  
Direct mail to customers

##### Additional Notification:

The Board of Directors of Gholson Water Supply Corporation or their designee shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

TCEQ  
Mayor  
Fire Chief  
School and Stores

### **Stage 1 Response -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Achieve a voluntary 20 percent reduction in total consumption.**

#### Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:

- (a) 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 a 25 percent reduction in total consumption and move to stage 1**

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: Reduce or no flushing of water lines.

#### 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, Tuesdays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 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 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 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 10:00 a.m. and between 8 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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation.
- (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 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, 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 a 35 percent reduction in total consumption and move to Stage 2.**

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: No flushing of water lines.

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 designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation.
- (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 a 45 percent reduction in total consumption and move to Stage 3.**

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: No water line flushing.

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 8:00 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 a 50 percent reduction in total consumption.**

Best Management Practices for Supply Management: No water line flushing.

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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation 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 the Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.
- (b) The Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation may institute temporary rate schedules to enforce the drought response stages as follows:
  - Stage 2- 25% increase in the price per 1,000 gallons used above the minimum monthly bill.



Stage 3- 50% increase in the price per 1,000 gallons used above the minimum monthly bill.

Stage 4- 75% increase in the price per 1,000 gallons used above the minimum monthly bill.

Stage 5- Any usage above the pro rata allocation shall be grounds for termination of service.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, 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 Gholson Water Supply Corporation within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Gholson Water Supply Corporation, 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.