

Austin Water Utility

Update – Drought Contingency Plan City Council Briefing



August 20, 2009

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Director



Lake Levels

- As of August 18th, the total combined storage in the Highland Lakes, lakes Buchanan and Travis, is about **875,054** acre-feet (ac-ft), or about 44 percent full.
- Total combined storage in lakes Travis and Buchanan has only been lower during three past droughts:

Drought	Lowest Level	Date
1984	829,470 ac-ft	Oct. 7, 1984
1964	639,141 ac-ft	Sep. 16, 1964
1950's	621,221 ac-ft	Sep. 9, 1952



LCRA Requirements

- The state-approved Water Management Plan directs LCRA to request its wholesale water customers to issue mandatory restrictions on water use when the combined storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis drops to 900,000 acre-feet.
- The City of Austin has had mandatory restrictions on water use since October 1, 2007



Drought Contingency Plan

- Council authorized the City's Drought Contingency Plan on April 23, 2009
- Stage II Restrictions tied to lake levels for the first time
- Stage II Triggers:
 - 260 mgd for 3 consecutive days
 - 270 mgd for 1 day
 - Lake levels below 900,000 acre-feet
 - As determined by City Manager



Stage II Restrictions

- Outdoor irrigation is prohibited except on assigned days at designated times (1x week)
- Golf fairway irrigation is limited to assigned days before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m.
- Golf tee and green irrigation is limited to every other day
- Vehicle washing is limited to designated days and times
- A person may not conduct or participate in a charity car wash
- The use of outdoor ornamental fountains is prohibited except to provide aeration for aquatic life
- May not add water to indoor fountains
- No automatic fill valves are allowed for pools or ponds



Stage II Restrictions

- Washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, patios or other paved surfaces is prohibited. Exceptions are made for washing necessary to protect public health, safety or welfare.
- A restaurant may not serve water to a customer unless requested by the customer
- Exemptions:
 - Certain Governmental functions
 - Reclaimed/Raw Water Systems – AWU will still seek voluntary compliance with the spirit of the restrictions



1 Day a Week Watering Schedule

Outdoor Water Use Days

Commercial, Multifamily odd-numbered addresses	Tuesday
Commercial, Multifamily even-numbered addresses	Friday
Residential odd-numbered address	Saturday
Residential even-numbered address	Sunday

Outdoor Watering Times

Automatic Systems:	Between 12:00 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Hose-end Sprinklers, Soaker Hoses:	Before 10 a.m. and/or after 7 p.m.
By Hand:	Any time on any day.



Water Waste Violations

- Beginning Monday, August 24th, citations will automatically be issued for water waste violations.
- AWU will add temporary employees to assist with around-the-clock enforcement. These employees will focus on proactively patrolling the City to look for water waste violations.
- Violations are Class C misdemeanors, with each instance punishable by a fine of up to \$500.
- To report violations, please use the online reporting form or call 311.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/default.htm>

