



# Austin Water Alternative Irrigation Compliance Program

## PILOT PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

An alternative compliance variance from the water use regulations may be granted in accordance with Austin City Code, Chapter 6-4-83, Water Conservation, Alternative Compliance. This variance, granted at the discretion of the Austin Water Executive Director, is reserved for those customers whose irrigation practices meet or exceed the intent of the Water Conservation Code, but not the specific mandates of the irrigation schedules contained therein.

This variance will be authorized for commercial property participants on a limited time basis for the purposes of conducting a pilot study for Austin Water. Participants of this pilot study must adhere to the following guidelines and program parameters:

Pilot Study Period: 4 years

Water Budget Determinations:

1. A water budget is required for each quarter: Jan.-March, April-June, July-Sept, and October-December. These budgets must be determined for all quarters and submitted with the initial application. Water not used in a quarter shall not be rolled over into subsequent quarters.
2. Water budget will be calculated using the following methodology:

$$\text{Water Budget} = \text{ETo} \times \text{Tcw} \times \text{Qf} \times \text{sq. ft.} \times \text{.623}$$

- **ET data source 70-year historic average for the City of Austin as reported by Texas Agrilife Extension Service**

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Austin	2.27	2.72	4.34	5.27	6.39	7.15	7.22	7.25	5.57	4.38	2.74	2.21	57.51

- **Tcw - (Crop Coefficient - warm season turf grass )**

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Austin	.10	.20	.30	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60	.30	.10

- **Qf - Quality Factor - permanent restrictions set at 0.8**

No Stress	Low Stress	Normal Stress	High Stress	Very High Stress
1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4

- Square footage will be made up of all irrigated areas on the site. Natural and non-irrigated areas will not be counted as part of the water budget.
- 0.623 value is equal to the number of gallons of water in 1.0 foot-inch

Upon implementation of more restrictive drought stages, water budgets will require the same percentage reduction as required by Austin's drought contingency plan. The water budget for each quarter will be prorated and recalculated should more restrictive drought stages be encountered during any quarter.

#### Property Selection:

For the purposes of conducting the pilot program, Austin Water will invite 15 properties to participate in the second calendar quarter (April – June) of 2012 and another 15 properties to participate in the fourth calendar quarter (October - December) of 2012. A total of 90 properties will be allowed to participate in the pilot study with a guarantee of 24 months for each participant. Properties served by multiple meters will be considered one property so long as the various meters are in the name of the same entity and the property is contiguous. Dedicated irrigation meters must service participating properties. **Austin Water will open an application submittal period of one week.** Applications received will be consecutively numbered in order of receipt and randomly selected to participate. Austin Water will accept 5 properties with an irrigated area equal to or less than one acre in size and 10 properties with an irrigated area greater than one acre in size.

#### Property Requirements and Program Enrollment:

Each property selected must have a dedicated irrigation meter, must have an established Austin Water Utility account for a minimum period of 3 years and must be in compliance with Austin City Code, Chapter 6-4-63(D), Permanent Water Use Restrictions. Austin Water staff will conduct site inspections to determine compliance, requiring the operation of each irrigation zone and pressure evaluations. Properties that fail the site inspection will be removed from the participant roster and allowed to re-apply during the second enrollment period. The vacated enrollment position will be offered to successive participants.

#### Program Acceptance:

Program acceptance is completed upon successful enrollment and acknowledgement of the program parameters in writing by the utility account holder (form established by Austin Water).

#### Signage:

Each participating property is required to erect a sign at the applicant's expense in an area on the property openly visible to the public. The signage will indicate that the property is enrolled in an Austin Water pilot study and provide notice of the variable watering schedule with verbiage determined by Austin Water.

#### Monitoring:

Meters will be read by Austin Water staff at the end of each quarter and reports delivered to participant representatives within 15 business days following the close of each quarter.

#### Enforcement:

Witnessed violations of Subsection 6-4-63, Permanent Water Use Restrictions, will be processed as required by the code in effect at the time of the violation. Exceeding the established budget for any two quarters will result in removal from the program for a year. Exceeding the established budget by 150% in any given quarter will result in the assessment of a monetary penalty and removal from the program for a year.

#### Fees and Charges:

Fees will not be assessed in the initial phases of the pilot, allowing Austin Water the time necessary to conduct a fee study. Once adopted by Council, appropriate fees and/or monetary penalties may be administered for continued participation.

#### Separation:

A property may be separated from the program without penalty at any time with written notice to Austin Water. Austin Water reserves the right to terminate the pilot program with reasonable notice.

SR # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Austin Water Use Only)

**AUSTIN WATER**  
Alternative Irrigation Compliance  
Pilot Program for Commercial Properties  
APPLICATION

Please complete the following information:

Property address: Street:

City: Zip Code:

Name of Person identified on the Utility Service Account:

Mailing Address: Street:

City: Zip Code:

City of Austin Utility Service Account #: Irrigation Meter(s) #: #: #:

Primary Contact: #: #: #:

Property Manager/Other Contact: Phone #: Email address:

Landscape Company (if applicable): Phone #: Email address:

Other : Phone #: Email address:

**Attach a site map showing the following information:**

- north arrow, street information, and building arrangement
- color coded boundary of each irrigated area, associated irrigation meter number, and location.

**Water Budget Calculation:**

**Jan -March**      **1.03** X  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(square feet)}}$  =  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(total budget gallons)}}$

**April- June**      **5.62** X  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(square feet)}}$  =  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(total budget gallons)}}$

**July-Sept**      **5.99** X  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(square feet)}}$  =  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(total budget gallons)}}$

**Oct - Dec**      **1.83** X  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(square feet)}}$  =  $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(total budget gallons)}}$

I have submitted the required information, site map, and proposed water budget for the property above and understand that all attachments are made part of this variance request and any subsequent approval. I further understand that subsection 6-4-63(D) remains in full force and effect.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Mail applications to: Austin Water, Water Conservation Division**  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767  
FAX to (512) 974-6548  
or Email to [watercon@austintexas.gov](mailto:watercon@austintexas.gov)

SR # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Austin Water Use Only)

**Austin Water**  
**Alternative Irrigation Compliance Authorization**

**The below named property has been accepted into a pilot study sponsored by Austin Water which complies with Austin City Code Chapter 6-4-83, Water Conservation, Alternative Compliance. This study allows the participant to conduct outdoor irrigation alternative to the day/week irrigation schedule.**

**Property Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**This authorization is provided on \_\_\_\_\_ and is in effect**  
(effective date)  
**for a period of two (2) years from the effective date.**

**The participant is required to comply with the Water Conservation Code, subsection 6-4-63(D). This provision states the following:**

**(D) A person may not:**

- (1) fail to repair a controllable leak, including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet;**
- (2) operate a permanently installed irrigation system with:**
  - a. broken head;**
  - b. a head that is out of adjustment and the arc of the spray head is over a street or parking lot; or**
  - c. a head that is misting because of high water pressure; or**
- (3) during irrigation, allow water:**
  - a) to run off a property and form a stream of water in a street for a distance of 50 feet or greater; or**
  - b) to pond in a street or parking lot to a depth greater than one-quarter of an inch.**

**Violations can be reported to 311 or by contacting Austin Water at (512) 974-2199. Please use the SR # when reporting violations.**