



# Water Use Management Ordinance Revisions

## Stakeholder Workshop

December 13, 2011

Larry Schooler, Facilitator

Drema Gross, Water Conservation Division Manager

# Tonight's Objectives

- Introduce the topics within the Water Conservation Code under discussion
- Get preliminary comments on topics from stakeholders
- Solicit requests for additional information on each of the topics
- Discuss the public participation process for any future code revisions

# Tonight's Agenda

<b>7:00</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Larry Schooler</b>
<b>7:10</b>	<b>Objective &amp; Background</b>	<b>Drema Gross</b>
<b>7:30</b>	<b>Topic Tables &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Stakeholders &amp; Subject Matter Experts</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Code Revision Process</b>	<b>Larry Schooler</b>
<b>8:45</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Larry Schooler</b>

# Texas is in a Severe Drought

- Drought is historic in proportion, may be long-term
- Dry conditions projected to persist through fall and winter with continuation of La Nina
- Record low inflows to Highland Lakes
- Austin's Stage 2 restrictions in effect since September 6
- Possible mandatory curtailment by April/May

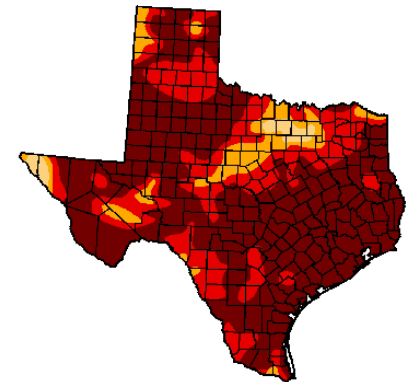
## U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

November 1, 2011  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.18	90.42	64.95
Last Week (10/25/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.34	90.87	69.61
3 Months Ago (08/02/2011 map)	0.07	99.93	99.48	98.67	91.73	73.49
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (10/26/2010 map)	57.82	42.18	20.47	3.15	0.08	0.00

### Intensity:

■ D0 Abnormally Dry  
■ D1 Drought - Moderate  
■ D2 Drought - Severe  
■ D3 Drought - Extreme  
■ D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, November 3, 2011  
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

# Currently...

- Chapter 6-4 of City Code defines permanent water use restrictions and restrictions in Stages 1, 2, and 3
- Chapter 6-4 also provides City Manager ability to implement undefined measures in long-term drought
- City's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) sets reduction goals and supply/demand "trigger" points
- City Manager considers whether the next restriction stage needs to be enacted to meet goals
- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) sets supply trigger points and manages water supply

# Current Restrictions

Effective	Stage	Goal	Key Elements
Year-round	Permanent		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Waste prohibited</li> <li>Commercial/MF limited to 2x week</li> <li>No midday irrigation with automatic systems</li> </ul>
1.4 MAF storage		5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCRA requests implementation of voluntary measures</li> </ul>
May – Sept or as needed	Stage 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All customers limited to 2x week</li> <li>No midday irrigation except by hand</li> <li>Vehicle washing on designated day</li> </ul>
900,000 AF storage	Stage 2	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All customers limited to 1x/week</li> <li>Fountains, restaurants, pools, car washing restricted</li> <li>LCRA requests mandatory measures, 10-20% goal</li> </ul>
681,000 AF storage	Stage 3	20% or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watering limited to 7 hours on watering day, by hand</li> <li>No new landscaping may begin</li> <li>Car washing limited to health/safety</li> </ul>
600,000 AF storage		20% from baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro-rata curtailment (firm customers allotted 80% of baseline year water usage)</li> </ul>

# Why We're Seeking Input

- DCP trigger for Stage 3 consideration is imminent
- Current Stage 3 restrictions written for short-term emergencies
- Austin's drought response differs from others in the region
- Reductions achieved in each restriction stage are not aligned with DCP goals for that stage
- Opportunity to clarify code language & implement new code requirements/policies

# What We're Considering

- What water uses should be restricted and to what extent?
- What types of currently restricted use should be permitted?
- How should Austin's approach compare regionally?
- How can we effectively implement administrative water waste fines?
- How should we implement mandatory audit recommendations?

# What We're ***NOT*** Considering

- Provisions in other parts of City Code (plumbing code, landscaping, criteria manuals)
- Water rates and revenue stability fee
- New water supply or treatment facilities
- Capital Improvements (reclaimed infrastructure)
- Conservation incentive programs

*Ask a staff member for contact information to comment on these issues.*

# Tonight's Process

- Overview of current water use and drought management policies
- Topic tables with guided comment cards & flip charts
  - Regional water supply
  - Irrigation restrictions
  - Non-irrigation restrictions
  - Car washing & pressure washing restrictions
  - Mandatory irrigation evaluations for commercial & multifamily
  - Enforcement of water use codes
- Discussion of input process & wrap-up

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# Future Processes

- We'd like you to:
  - Share information with your group
  - Request additional information to inform your comments
    - [watercon@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:watercon@ci.austin.tx.us) or SpeakUpAustin.org
  - Participate in focused topic sessions if invited
  - Attend future public workshops on proposed options
- Staff will:
  - Tally comments & respond to information requests
  - Draft matrix of potential code revisions
  - Consider feedback on process

# Next Steps

- Anticipate public workshops in January/February
  - Potential for topic-specific stakeholder meetings
  - Opportunity for written & electronic comments
- Regular updates to Water/Wastewater & Resource Management Commissions
- Seek Commission Approvals – February
- Seek Council Approval – March
- Continue to monitor drought, work with LCRA



# Questions?

Water Conservation Division – 974-2199

AWU Public Affairs Office – 972-0150

[watercon@austintexas.gov](mailto:watercon@austintexas.gov)

[www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org)