



Water Use Management Ordinance Revisions

Public Stakeholder Workshop

January 19, 2012

Larry Schooler, Facilitator

Drema Gross, Water Conservation Division Manager

Tonight's Objectives

- Provide background information on current codes and drought situation
- Summarize feedback received from industry stakeholders and community leaders
- Gather input on Austin's role in the regional water picture
- Gather public input on water use management regulations

Tonight's Agenda

6:30	Introduction	Larry Schooler
6:40	Background	Drema Gross
7:00	Break-out to Table Discussion	Stakeholders
8:30	Questions & Wrap-Up	Larry Schooler

Texas is in a Severe Drought

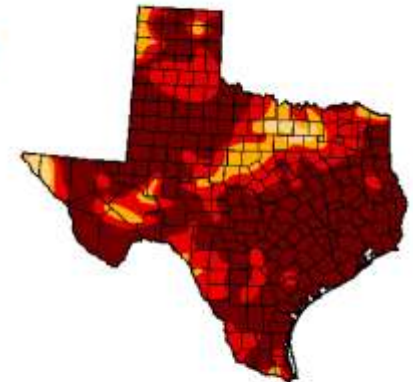
- Drought is historic in proportion, may be long-term
- Dry conditions projected to persist through fall and winter if La Nina continues
- Record low inflows to Highland Lakes in 2011
- Austin's Stage 2 restrictions in effect since September 6
- Possible mandatory curtailment by summer 2012

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	69.51
3 Months Ago (08/02/2011 map)	0.07	99.93	99.48	96.67	91.73	73.49
Start of Calendar Year (12/01/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	89.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/01/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (10/01/2010 map)	57.82	42.18	20.47	3.15	0.08	0.00

Intensity



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
- 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

Why We're Seeking Input

- Projections indicate we may reach trigger for considering Stage 3 restrictions by summer 2012
- Current Stage 3 restrictions written for short-term emergencies
- Customer feedback on effects of Stage 2 restrictions
- Austin's drought response differs from others in the region, likely exceeds LCRA reduction targets
- Opportunity to clarify code language & implement new code requirements/policies

What We're Considering

- How do water regulations affect our customers?
- Is Austin too restrictive, or not restrictive enough?
- What water uses should be limited, and when? What should be exempt from restriction?
- Which measures should be part of long-term conservation efforts, and which should be reserved for drought response?
- How should Austin's drought response reflect long-term conservation efforts?

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

Use the flip charts or ask a staff member for contact information to comment on these issues.

What We've Heard...

- Support for...
 - Requesting voluntary conservation before imposing additional restrictions
 - Requiring restaurants to serve water only by request
 - Enforcing water use regulations through water bill fines
 - Issuing a warning prior to a fine/citation
- Disagreement on...
 - Whether fines should differ for residential and commercial
 - Limiting irrigation to twice per week year-round

Tonight's Process

- Overview of current water use and drought management policies
- Table discussions to:
 - Explore Austin's level of drought response
 - Give input on specific regulations and exemptions relative to stages of drought
- General discussion & wrap-up

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Future Processes

- We'd like you to:
 - Continue to share information and discuss water use topics and regulations with others in your community
 - Request additional information as you need to inform your comments watercon@austintexas.gov or SpeakUpAustin.org
 - Attend future public workshops on proposed options
- Staff will:
 - Continue to tally comments & respond to information requests
 - Draft matrix of restrictions by stage, considering your feedback
 - Seek your comments on draft code revisions

Next Steps

- Next Public Workshop - February 22, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
- Opportunity for written & electronic comments (SpeakUpAustin.org)
- Regular updates to Water/Wastewater & Resource Management Commissions
- Seek Commission Approvals – March
- Seek Council Approval – April
- Continue to monitor drought, work with LCRA



Questions?

Water Conservation Division – 974-2199

AWU Public Affairs Office – 972-0150

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www.waterwiseaustin.org