



# Water Use Management Ordinance Revisions

**Public Workshop**

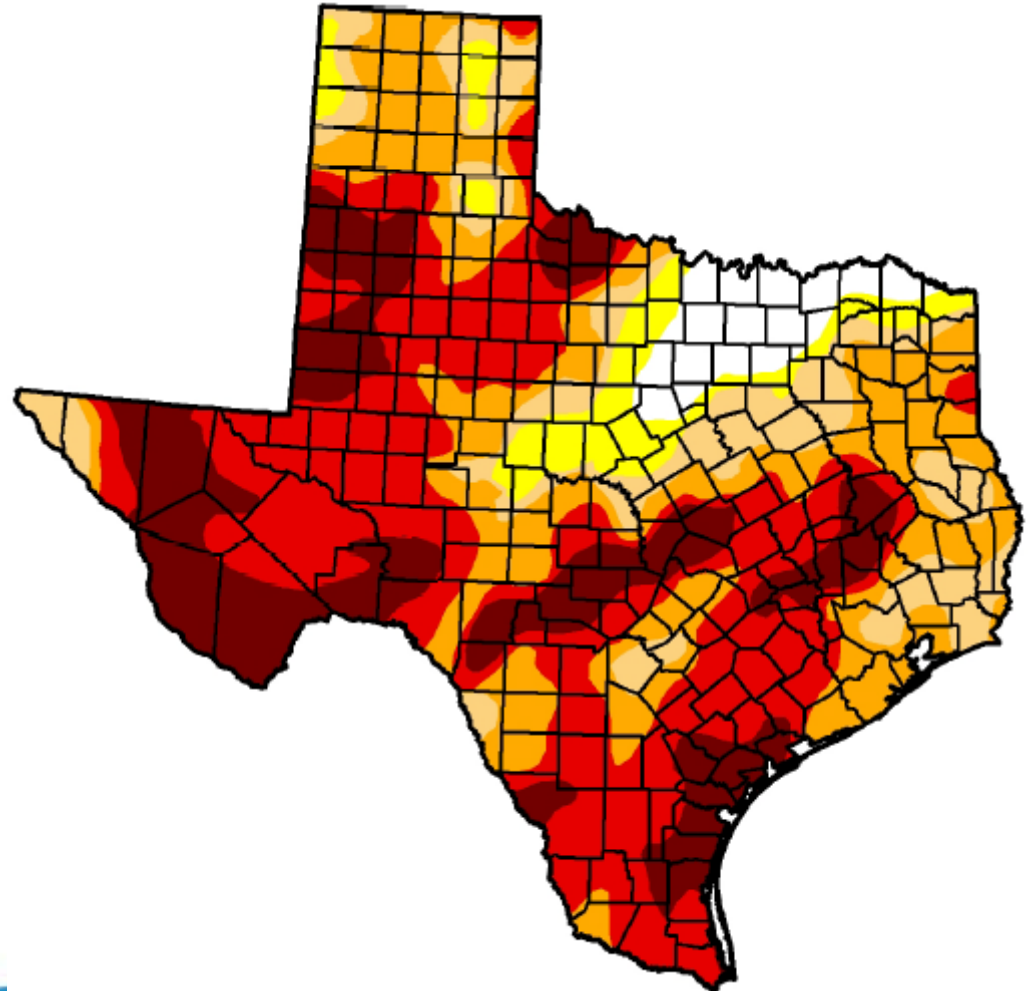
February 22, 2012

# Tonight's Agenda

<b>6:30</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Larry Schooler</b>
<b>6:40</b>	<b>Summary of Feedback &amp; Proposed Changes</b>	<b>Drema Gross Larry Schooler</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Break-out to Table Discussion</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Larry Schooler</b>

## Texas Drought: February 2012

- 95.07% of state in some level of drought
- 76.46% in severe drought or worse
- Little to no improvement in Central Texas
- Significant rainfall would be needed to end drought conditions
- La Nina conditions expected to persist

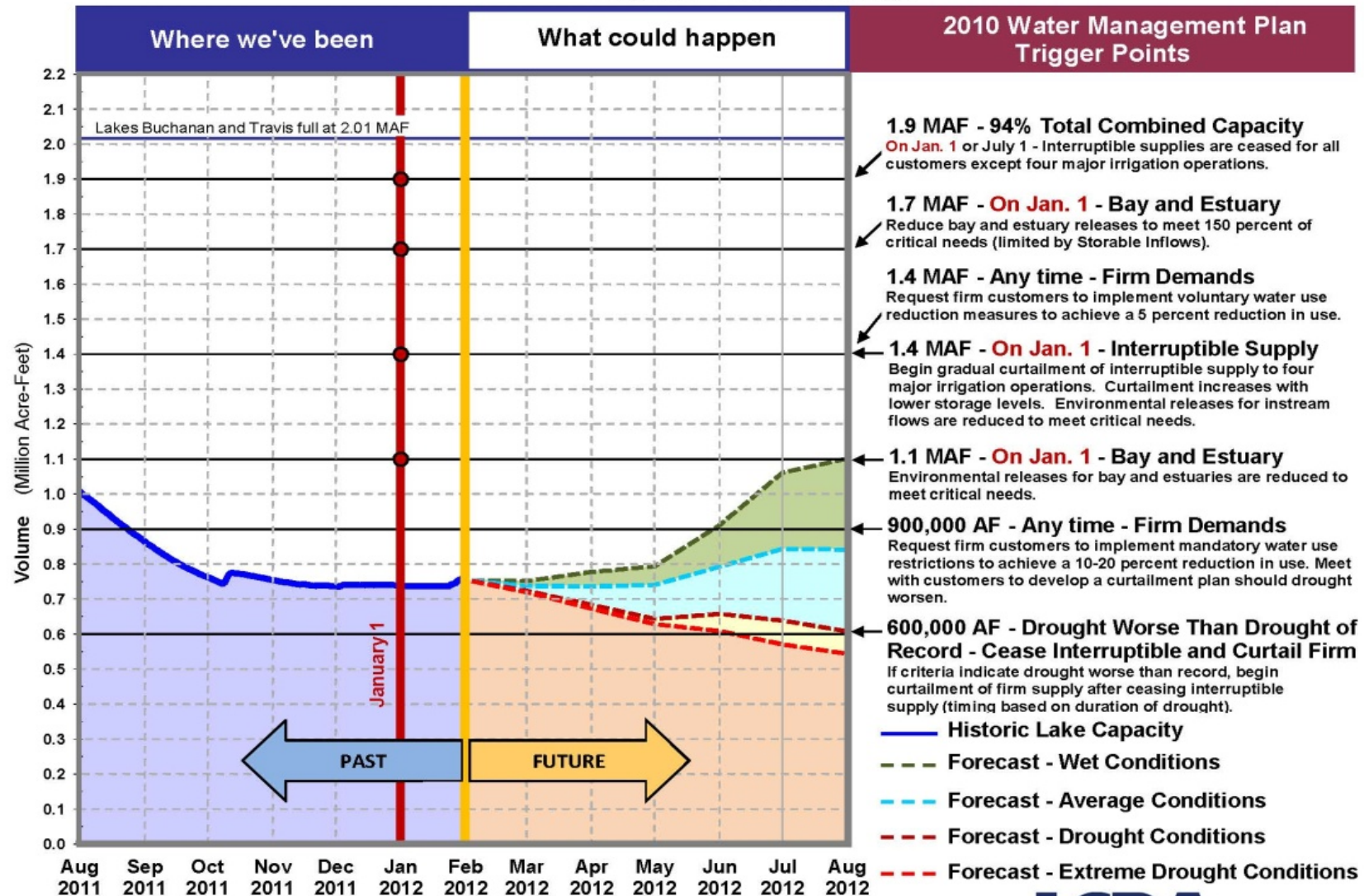


# Currently...

- 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 determines 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



## Highland Lakes Storage



Note: MAF equals One Million Acre-Feet  
One Acre-Foot (AF) equals 325,851 gallons.

Date: February 1, 2012



# Need for Code Revisions

- Current Stage 3 restrictions written for short-term emergencies, not sustainable in long-term drought
- Customer feedback on effects of Stage 2 restrictions, concerns about Stage 3 impact on businesses & trees
- Austin's drought response differs from others in the region, likely exceeds LCRA reduction targets
- Implement mandatory irrigation evaluations as recommended by Council
- Switch to administrative enforcement of water use rules

# Public Involvement

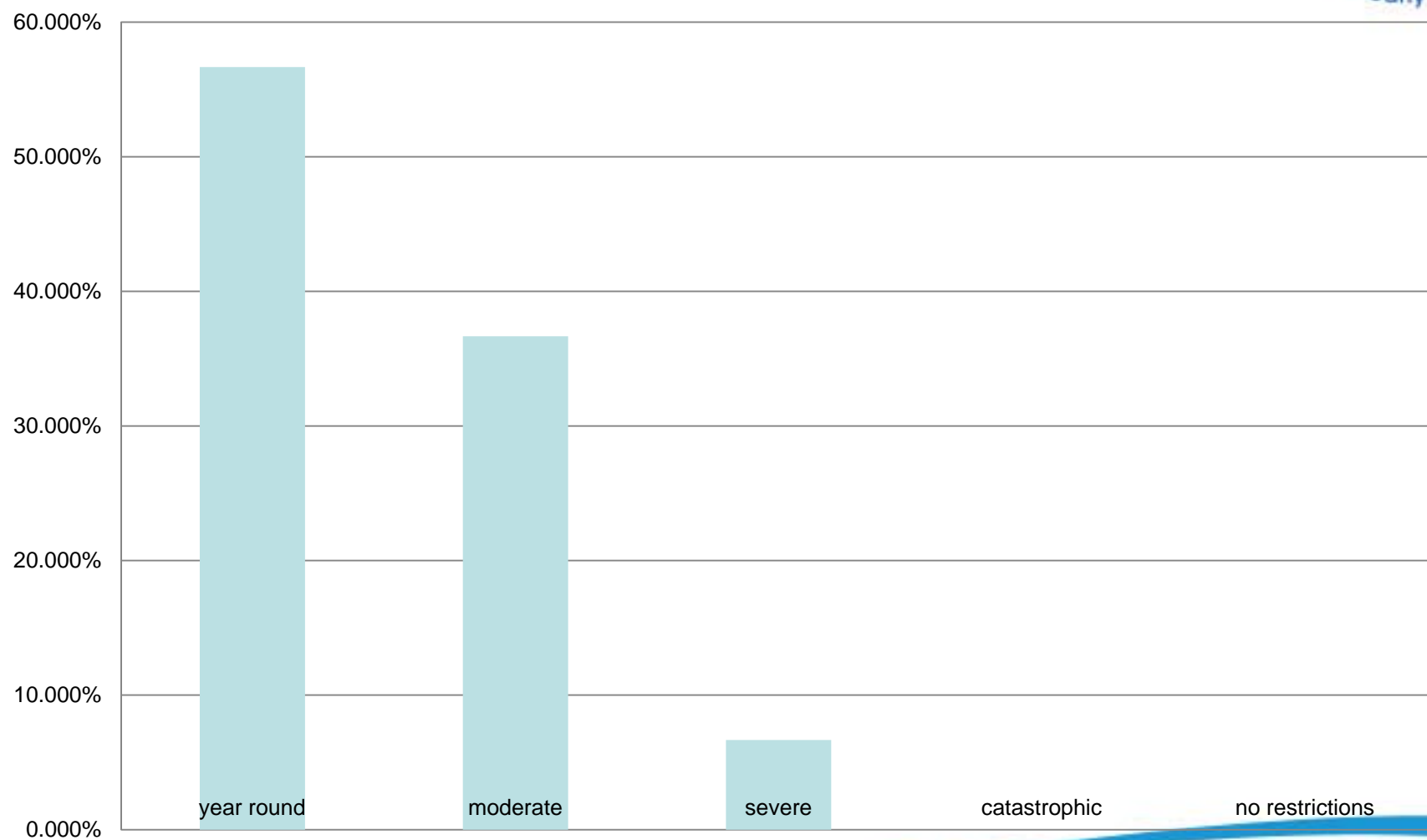
- Meeting with stakeholders since late August 2011 on effects of Stage 2 and 3 restrictions
- Stakeholder workshop December 13<sup>th</sup>
  - 69 attendees representing environmental, landscaping, car wash, homebuilder & developer interests
- Public workshop January 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Over 100 attendees including homeowners and businesses
- Exercises to discuss effect of restrictions on lake levels and customers

# What We've Heard...

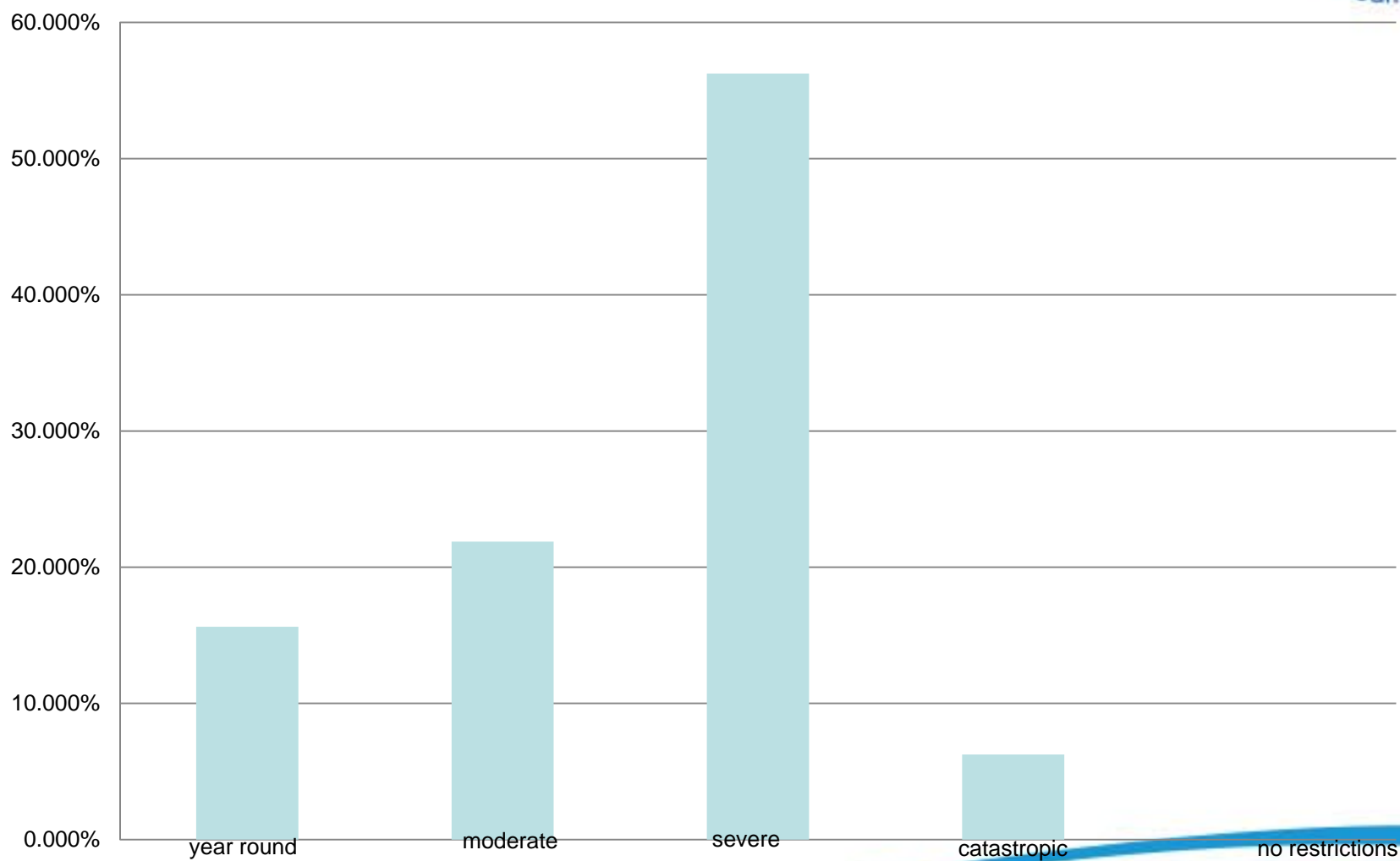
- Support for...
  - Enabling efficient irrigation of trees and vegetable gardens
  - Protecting business interests in drought conditions
  - Enforcing water use regulations through water bill fines
  - Issuing a warning prior to a fine/citation
  - Stronger restrictions in normal /early drought (80% do more/same)
  - Status quo in moderate/severe drought (even split do more/same/less)
  - Less stringent in catastrophic conditions (44% do less, 34% same)



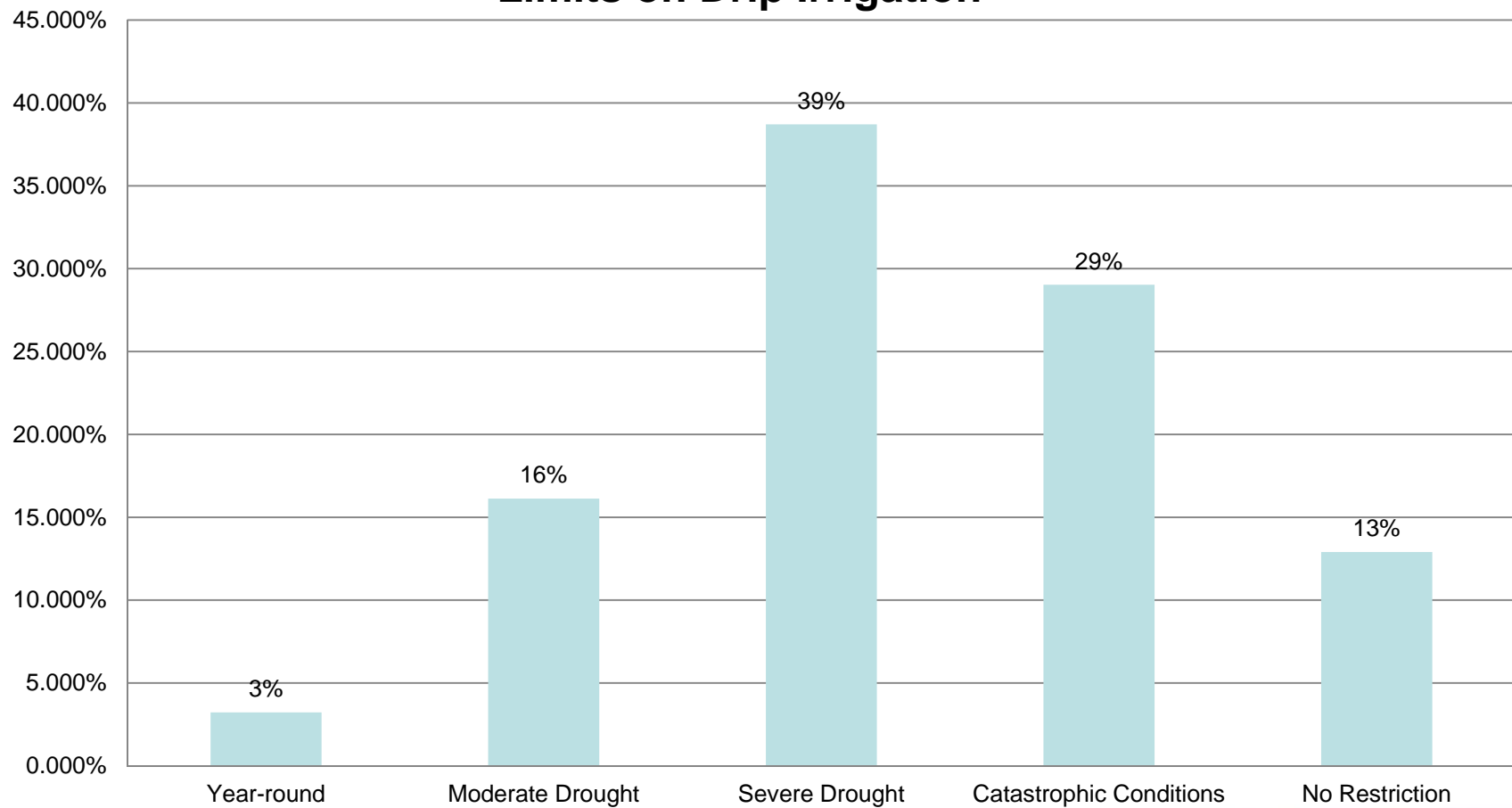
## Twice per Week Watering



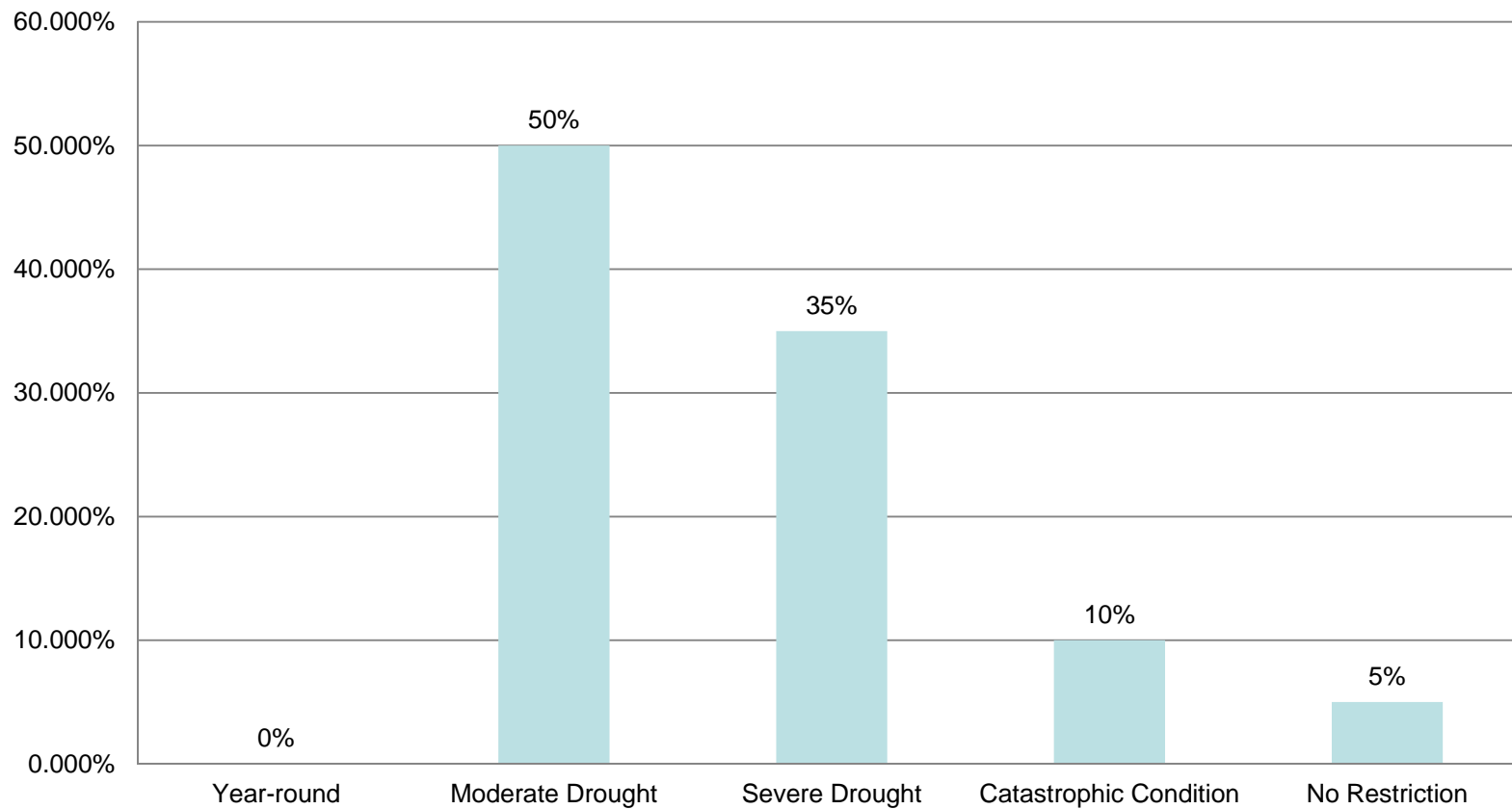
## Once per week Watering



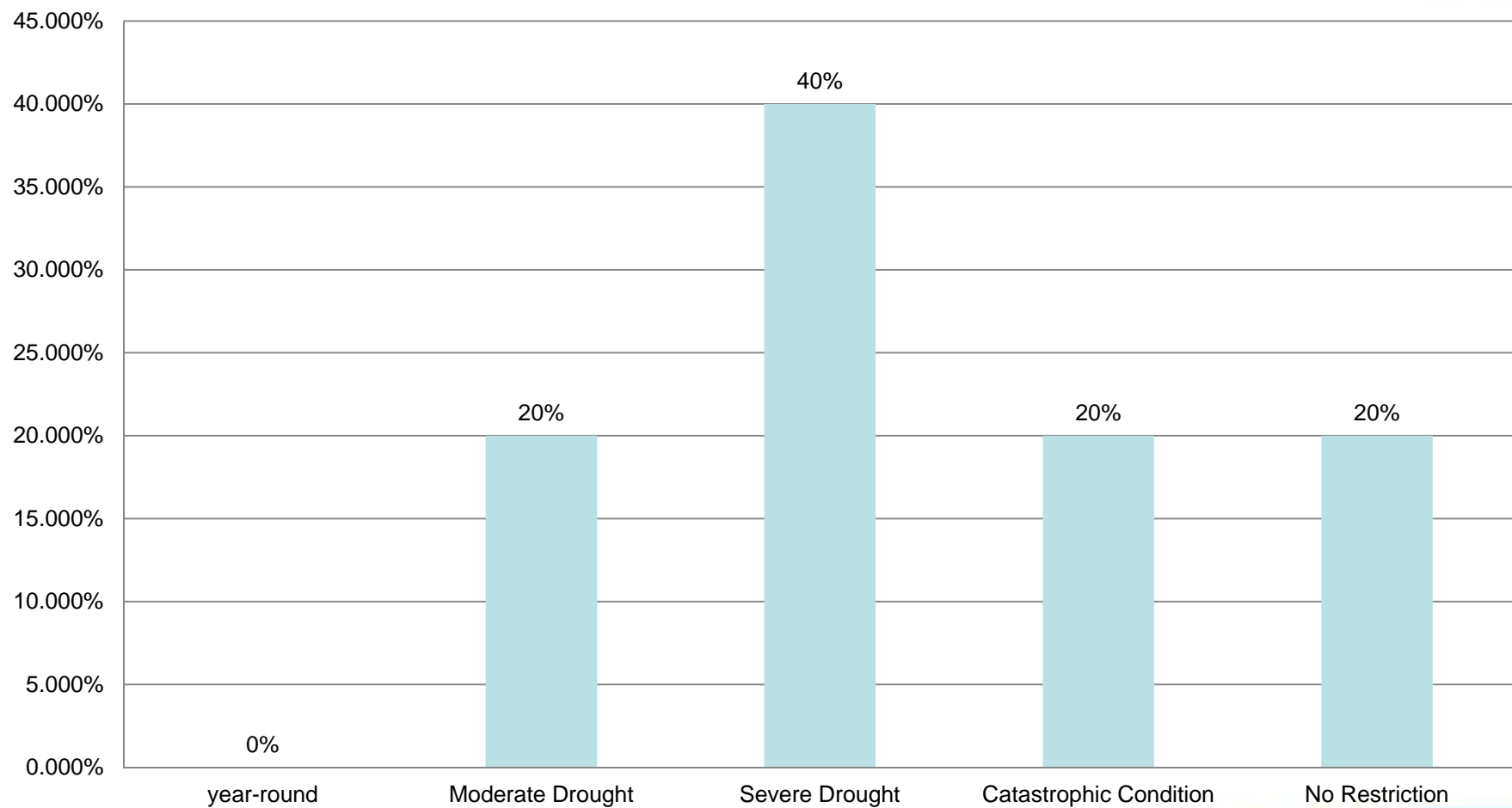
## Limits on Drip Irrigation



## When should regulations of Ornamental Fountains Begin?

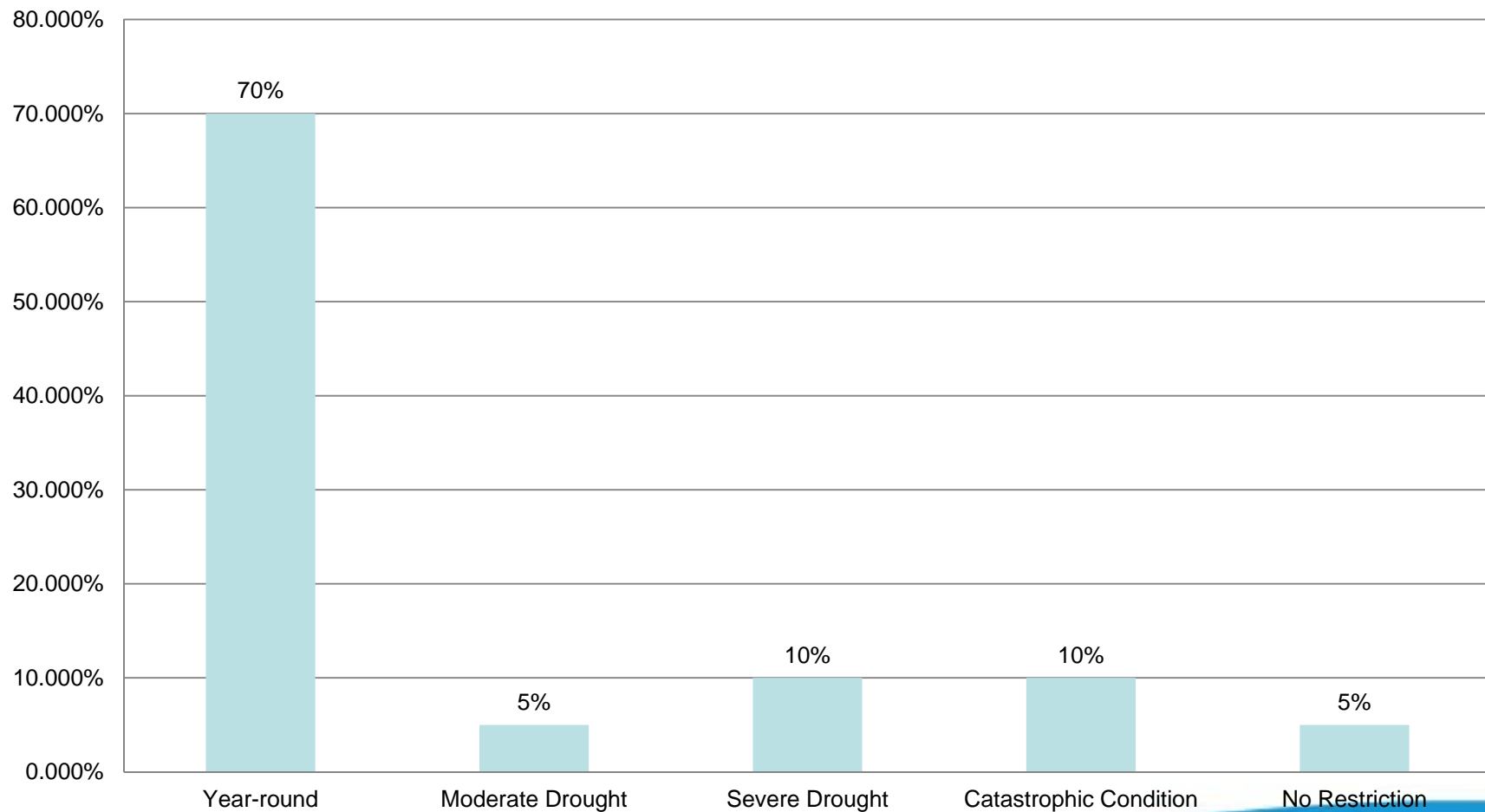


## No refilling of pools/ponds/fountains

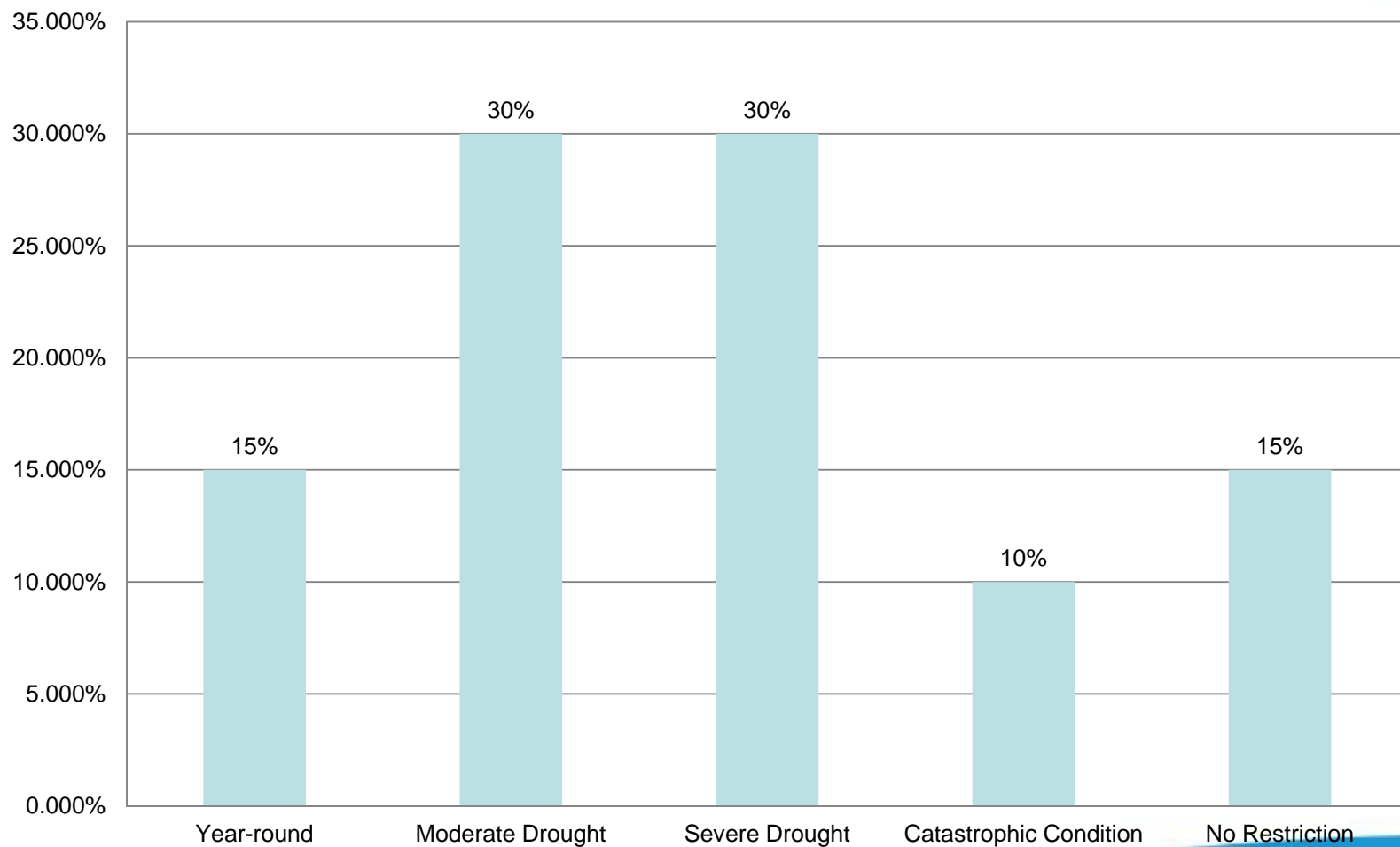




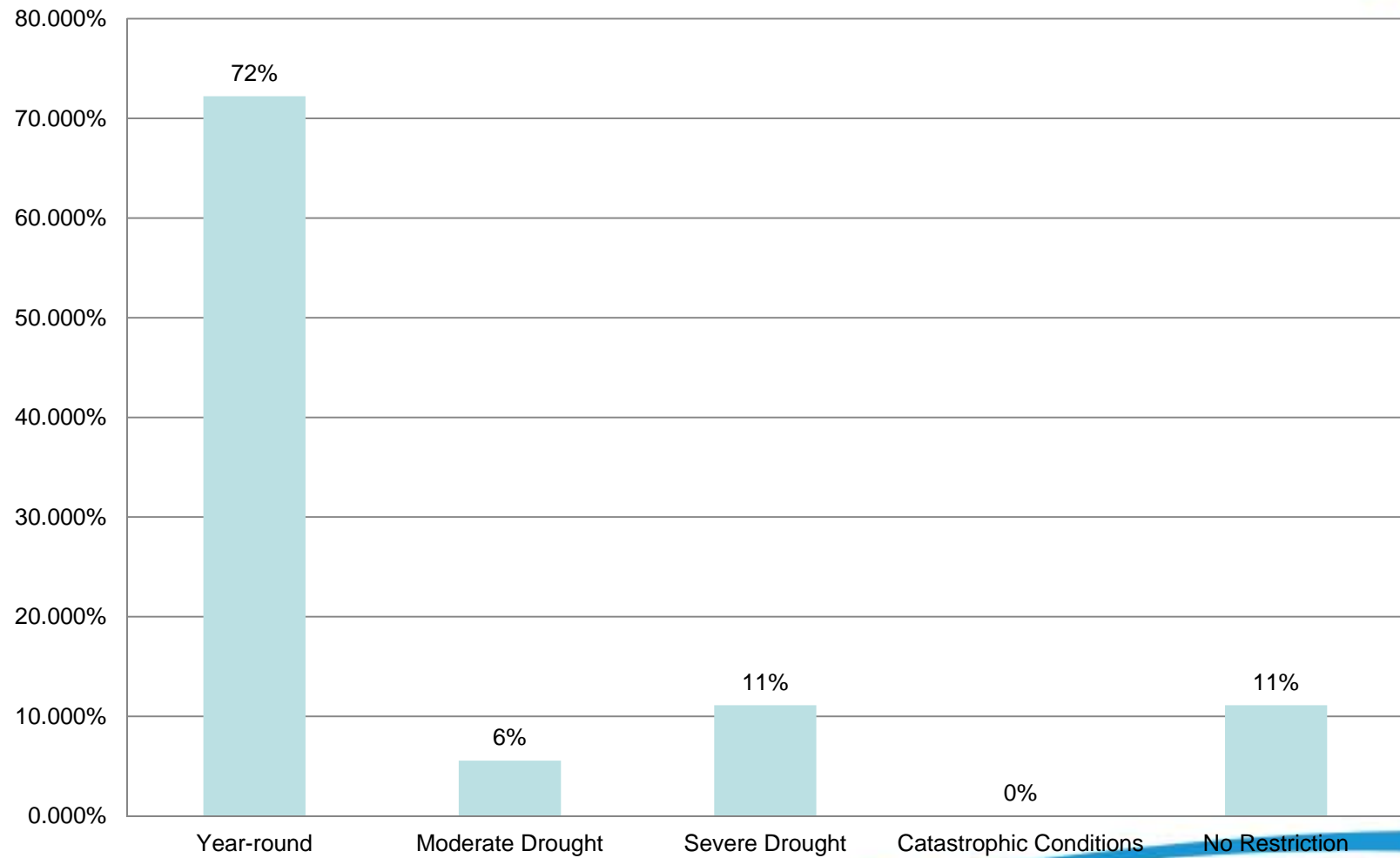
## Water on Request at Restaurants



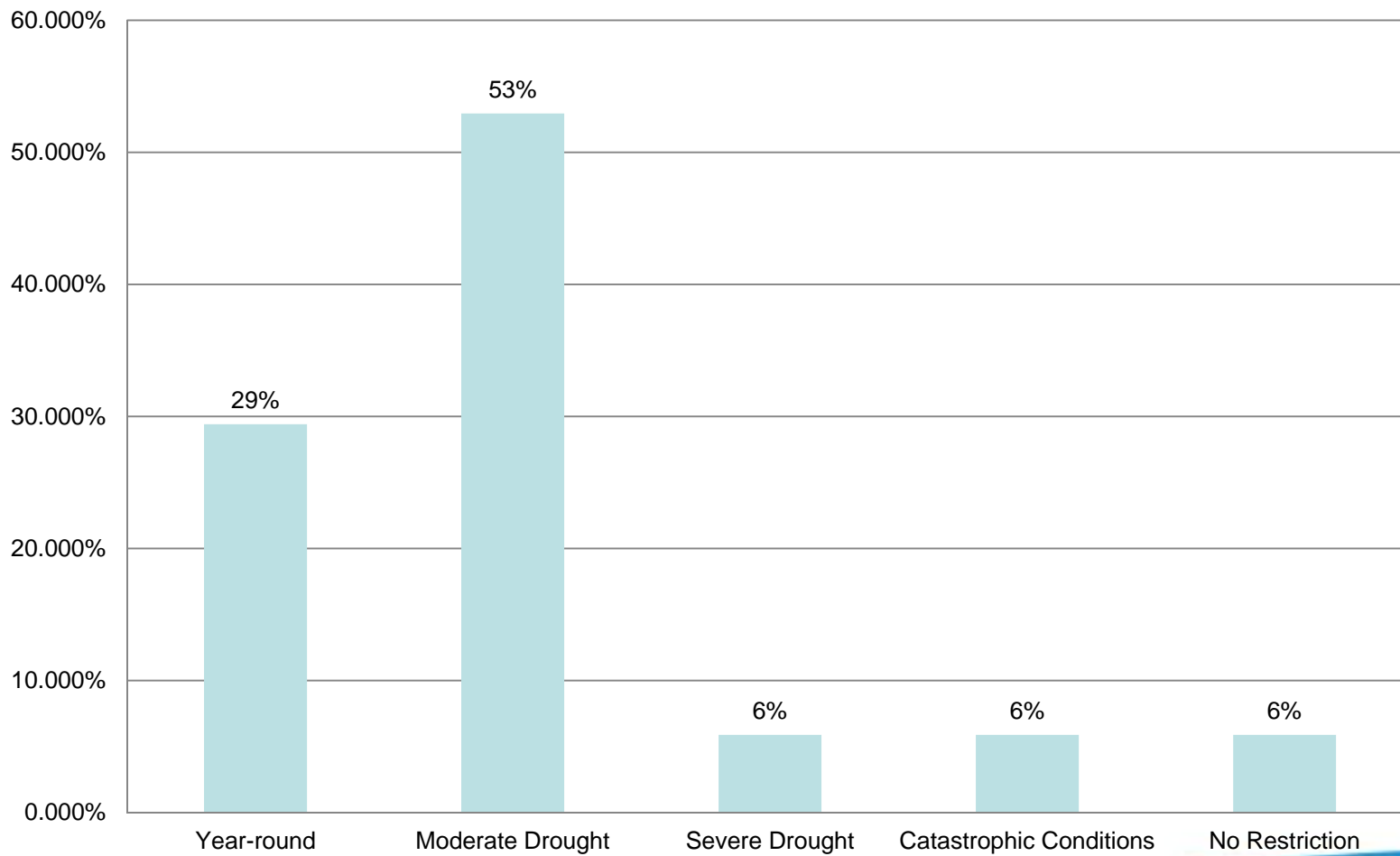
## Limit Patio Misters on Commercial Properties



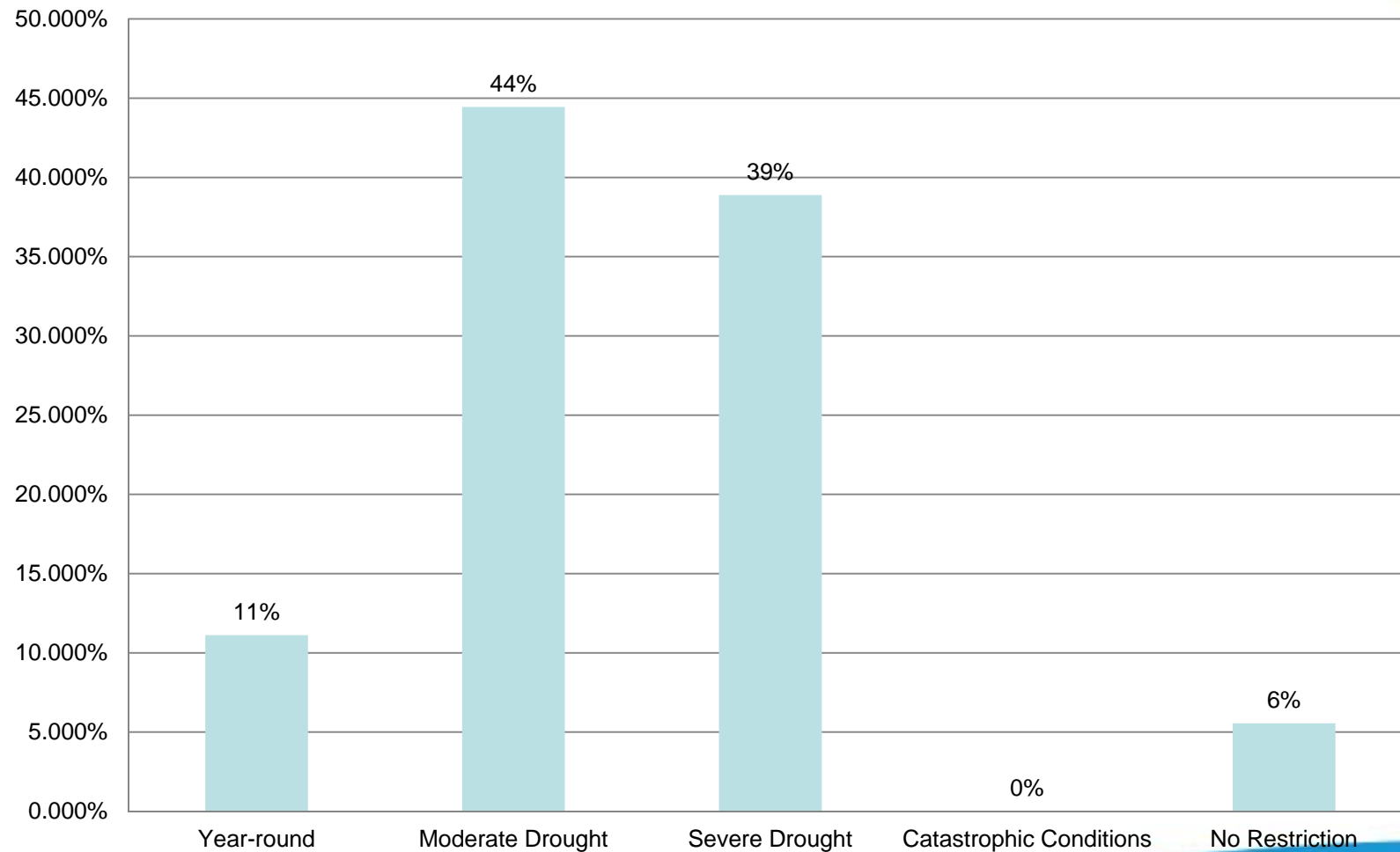
## Carwash Equipment Certification



## Prohibition of Charity Carwash

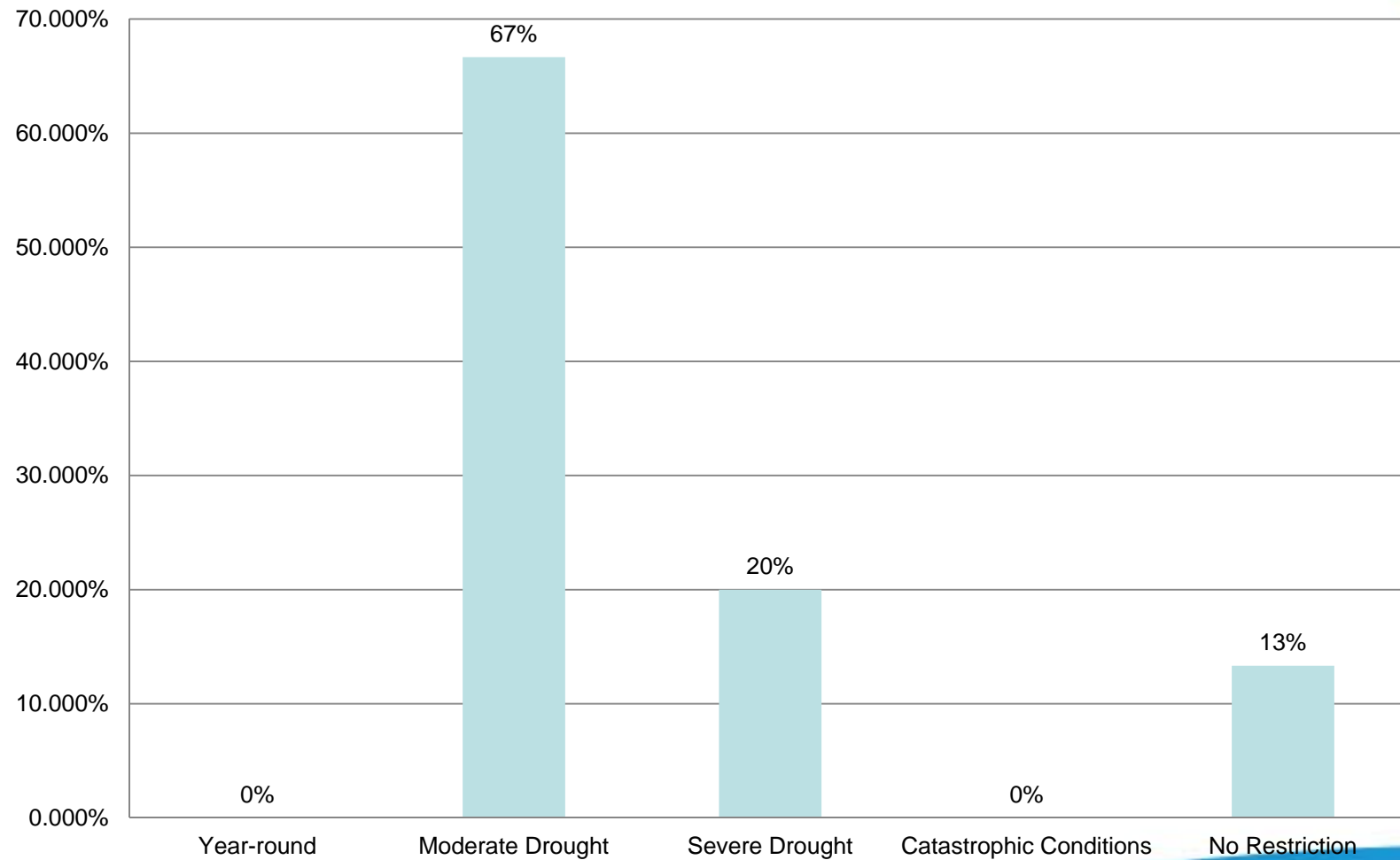


## Residential Car Washing Restrictions





## Regulation of Cosmetic Power Washing



	Standard	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Storage:	Above 1.4 MAF	$\leq 1.4$ MAF	900,000 AF	600,000 AF	Emergency
Irrigation	2x/wk (30 hrs total) No midday watering (except by hand)	2x/wk (20 hrs total) No midday watering (except by hand)	1x/wk (10 hrs total) No midday watering (except by hand)	1x/wk (6 hrs) No midday watering  May require wholesale curtailment	May further restrict outdoor irrigation
Exemptions	Drip irrig , tree watering & veg garden irrig with drip, bubble, soaker exempt				
Restaurants	Water on request				
	Commercial patio misters 4p-midnight			Comm patio misters 4-8pm	Comm patio misters prohibited
Car Washing	Comm washes must meet efficiency standards	Home car wash on designated day	Home & charity car washes prohibited		All car washing prohibited
Recreational Water Use	Fountains must recirculate			Orn. fountains, splash pads & spas prohibited	No filling of pools or ponds; no outdoor recreational use
Pressure Washing	Commercial pressure washing must recycle			Comm. & private power washers must recycle	All cosmetic power washing prohibited
Commercial Plant Nursery	Must use drip irrig or hand watering				

# Tonight's Exercises

- Did we get it right?
  - Background information at tables, flags to call staff
  - Complete matrix as a group
  - Place “right” color star beside items in “wrong” stage
  - Turkey next to those you cannot support
- Variances for landscape irrigation
  - Group discussion & recording
  - When should variances be allowed?

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# Feedback?



# Next Steps

- Continue to seek public input:
  - [SpeakUpAustin.org](http://SpeakUpAustin.org) and [Waterwiseaustin.org](http://Waterwiseaustin.org)
- Next public workshop in March (Date TBA)
- Boards & Commissions – April/May
- City Council – late May
- Continue to monitor drought, work with LCRA



# Questions?